Water for Life
From Miles to Meters:
Bless 15 More Villages with Safe, Life-Giving Water
— Kenya —

Stella Patrick (right) and her sister Cynthia Kanini (left) fetch water at a dam more than 5 kilometers from their village.
The Perilous Journey for Water

What a blessing it is to see the seeds of your compassion bear fruit! The total number of Kenyans rescued from thirst and waterborne illness through the ministry you supported is more than an incredible 470,300 — and that does not even include the many children who will be born in the months and years ahead without ever knowing the suffering of water scarcity at all!

In celebration of that God-glorying success, we want to give you the opportunity to plant seeds of hope in another group of thirsty communities in Kenya. As we work together again to extend this tried-and-true program to these additional villages, thousands more will know the blessings of safe water, God’s provision, and the generosity of compassionate Catholic families like yours.

The need for this intervention is urgent, because each and every day that passes is another day of burdensome toil for the mothers, daughters and grandmothers who must walk miles through the arid, sometimes dangerous countryside to gather water for their needs. Due to the fact that droughts continue to hit Kenya frequently (an especially bad one arrived in September last year), that journey only grows more arduous and discouraging.

As you read on, we’ll introduce you to just a few of the many families who will be blessed beyond measure by your generosity. You will also learn more about the hope this project will bring to their communities, because access to water does much more than quench thirst.

Our merciful God has said, “For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground.” Working together, we can bring those words to life in Kenya this year!
Executive Summary

Description
This project will expand clean water access to 15 more villages by installing safe, reliable, easily accessible water systems.

Purpose
To relieve families of the overwhelming burden of traveling long distances in search of water and to reduce waterborne illness caused by dependence on undeveloped sources.

Our Partner
Good Samaritan Water Sanitation Services, a Kenya-based NGO founded by our longtime ministry partner Father Fabian Hevi. Since 2013, we have worked with Fr. Fabian to provide clean water for remote Kenyan communities.

Location
The Diocese of Machakos and the Archdiocese of Mombasa in Kenya.

Campaign Goal
$1,260,000 to install 15 clean water systems. See a complete financial summary on page 14.

Campaign Highlights
Your generous gift will continue manifesting Christ’s love for the poor in rural Kenya by providing:

CLEAN WATER
Empower Fr. Fabian’s Good Samaritan Water Sanitation Services NGO to install 15 community water systems, blessing 170,000 people with the gift of clean water. The water systems will include deep, professionally installed wells, elevated storage tanks, and conveniently located distribution kiosks.

Enable communities to host water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) training sessions, which will help families protect their health and preserve the purity of their wells for generations to come. This blessing will save lives, eliminate long travels to find water, and empower families to take back their time to invest in their work, education and faith.

Be a part of this miracle of mercy to villages suffering from water scarcity. Help us cut their journey from miles to meters and refresh their souls with the Water of Life.
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After five days waiting for water to reach her local tap, which draws from a shallow source, Margaret Makio Mlamba again fails to fill her container.
SECTION I

THE NEED

They shall not hunger or thirst... for he who has pity on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them.

ISAIAH 49:10

Kenyan children walking a long distance in search of water.
Kenya’s Continuing Water Crisis

Our past successes with water projects in Africa bring confidence that our current effort to install water systems in these new communities will be life-transforming!

“Even the animals are happy,” confirmed Penina Msango, a Kenyan mother of three who benefited from our previous water project in Kenya. Of course, she is rejoicing as well because she no longer has to walk eight kilometers from home to quench her family’s thirst and provide her livestock with water.

But while Penina’s village of Kamtonga now enjoys a safe, local water source, many other communities in this rural region still struggle. And for many of those families, the problem may actually be getting worse.

Shortcomings with Kenya’s rural infrastructure mean that nearly one in three people has no access to clean, safe water, and scores of communities are experiencing incredible hardships as a result. Many of these families currently depend on shallow, hand-dug wells and streams for survival, and those sources are brimming with parasites and other contaminants. As droughts persist, even those sources are becoming rare, driving families to push their search for water even farther from their homes.

To survive, women and children must often rise in the predawn darkness to begin the long walk to these distant, unreliable water sources. Fortunate families may have a bicycle or an animal to help with this burden, but most must manage all of this backbreaking work on their own. The journey consumes hours of their day, puts them at risk of attacks by wild animals, interferes with children’s education, and robs them of the time and energy they need for life’s other necessary chores.

Forebodingly, the danger posed by drought seems to be on the increase, adding to these challenges. Starting last year, East Africa experienced what is considered its worst drought in decades. It affected millions of Kenyans, killed valuable livestock, and even led to armed conflict.

An Increasingly Difficult Tradition

To Americans, the traditional image of an African woman carrying a water jug on her head is iconic. Increasingly, however, the image tells a story of exhaustion, scarcity, lost opportunity, waterborne illness and the vicious cycle of poverty. What’s more, evidence now suggests this practice leads to significant head and neck pain and brings a real risk of musculoskeletal disorders. Kenya’s women and their families are desperate for assistance — and you can help provide the solutions they need!
Though much progress has been made in the fight against thirst and waterborne illness, many villages in the Archdiocese of Mombasa and the Diocese of Machakos still lack a developed water source. In Mombasa, natural waterways are often too salty to drink from due to their proximity to the Indian Ocean. In Machakos, the shallow rivers and canals disappear or become a muddy trickle during Kenya’s lengthy dry season.

Fortunately, the Church has been working diligently to bring relief to these long-suffering families, and the map at right shows the progress we’ve made with your help. It also indicates the locations of the villages we want to target next in our mission to rescue the poor from their struggle with water scarcity.

Kenya Water Facts

- About 32% of the entire country lacks water.
- About 40% of rural Kenyans do not have clean water.
- Almost half of Kenya’s population lacks sanitary bathroom facilities, resulting in contamination of the water supply.
- Frequent diarrhea and vomiting from waterborne diseases can exacerbate child hunger. This is an especially big risk for the 11% of children under age 5 who are underweight.
- Without irrigation, farmers (who account for three quarters of the population) are highly vulnerable to Kenya’s frequent droughts.

Source: CIA World Factbook
Fighting for Water

An Oppressive Burden

Three hours.

That's how long it can take Francisca Ngao to walk to the Tange River to fill her water can.

To get a head start, she often rises before dawn, even knowing that doing so adds a risk of encountering dangerous animals along the way. Elephants, who compete for the region's scarce water resources, can be especially frightening. A thirsty elephant's potential for violence is a very real threat — so real that families will sometimes go without water rather than risk that confrontation.

Ultimately, though, Francisca's biggest challenge is time itself. This mother of six loses too many precious hours fetching water. Given the time it takes her to complete the chore — sometimes more than once a day — it is amazing Francisca finds the time and energy to work as a cook for her parish and to serve as the treasurer of her Catholic women's group.

And for all of this time and effort, the water she collects isn't even clean. In fact, it is almost undrinkable.

"Sometimes it is hard water to drink. You can see some organisms moving around in the water," she said.

For these and many other reasons, Francisca is eager for a permanent solution to her village's water crisis.

"Clean water will help me and also my family members to have good health," she says. "I am requesting clean water and especially in this area which has very limited clean water. We have some animals — our goats and our domestic animals also need clean water."

Stella's Story

"As women, we have a very challenging time due to the lack of water," said Stella Patrick, a married mother of four who does subsistence farming.

"We usually take some three hours to go fetch water for our domestic use," she said. "And it is usually so hectic because we got to fetch water carrying our jerry cans. We fetch untreated water — very dirty water. We usually use it for drinking and it is not good for our health."

As a result, Stella says, the women in her village are pressed for time and struggle to accomplish the other things their families need from them. Still, the water is never enough — and it is never clean enough. The climate is very dry, and dams they go to for water often run low.

"Due to the lack of water, it takes time for our children to go to school and to bathe and wash clothes," Stella said. "If we could get water, it could assist us to improve our health and avoid some infections."
Fr. Fabian Assesses the Dire Need

Fr. Fabian recently visited Stella's community — a place called Senda — to see the local water source with his own eyes.

“Traveling from Senda to where they get water is exactly 5.2 kilometers. That is just to get here,” he said. “And to get back means somebody will need to spend close to six hours getting water.”

**Six hours — almost a full workday. Just to fetch as much dirty water as you can carry.**

As Fr. Fabian saw for himself, the water these families fight so hard to obtain is also far from refreshing.

“I was just helping a family who had just come to get water, and the water looks very green and also very smelly,” said Fr. Fabian. “But that is what they need. That is what they will take for their house chores. This definitely means that anybody who uses this water is at risk of various diseases because it is contaminated.

“We would like to have these people get clean and safe water. With this contaminated water and the distance, many children will fall sick, and also the distance will make many children spend a whole lot of time trying to look for water instead of being in school. Also, this affects spiritual activities, because they will not have time to go to church.”

Fr. Fabian continued, “During the COVID period, we all knew how important water was. Without water, people were at risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus. With water, we are safer. But how do you wash your hands with contaminated water? Do that and you are going to get other diseases and bacteria that we are not aware of.”

**Big Obstacles**

“The biggest problem they have here [in the Kisimani and Mango parish] is contending with elephants and other wild animals which threaten their life. So, there are times when they don't take such risks. When they are going to look for water and meet herds of elephants, they go back home and save their lives. That means they are going without water for a longer time. Also, the few dams that are around here have all dried up, meaning they have to walk longer distances to get some water. Whatever they get then may be muddy, contaminated, and also very murky in color.” ~ Fr. Fabian

*This damaged water tank illustrates the threat posed by elephants desperate to find water.*
Kenyan Catholics understand the water crisis all too well — they suffer with the consequences of it every single day.

Father Eric Wandinga serves as the associate pastor of Voi. His parish is surrounded by poor communities that struggle to access basic necessities.

Fr. Eric asked us, “Please, Cross Catholic Outreach, assist us to have clean water and ample water so that our Christians can be able to grow spiritually.”

What does access to clean water have to do with spiritual growth? Fr. Eric cited the example of an elderly parishioner. He often visits her to give moral and spiritual support. Mama Fidellia Sarah is an 83-year-old amputee dependent living under her daughter’s care.

Mama Fidellia tries to attend Mass regularly despite her hardships, but the hours she spends with her daughter fetching the water they need to survive makes it difficult to get to church on time.

Fr. Fabian agrees.

“Time lost over water collection does affect spiritual activities,” he said. “People spend time going in search of water instead of going to church, going for Mass, or other spiritual activities or church activities. Some will go very late; some will come in very tired and will not be able to concentrate on their spiritual affairs.”

**Spiritual Impact**

Joseph Kyallo Kasine, a retired teacher, shared how the blessing of clean, accessible water has benefited his spiritual life.

“I’m a member of the Catholic Men Association and a secretary of the parish in the Catholic Men Association. Water has assisted me in not delaying going to the church. When looking for water for the animals and for domestic use, I can now come to church without any worry and come on time. I thank very much Cross Catholic Outreach for this and the thing they have done for us by bringing us water to save us and make our life more comfortable and make our area become green because we’ll be able now to plant trees.”
SECTION II

THE SOLUTION

Fr. Fabian helps a student carry water to her school from a Cross Catholic Outreach-funded water kiosk.
Multiply the Blessing of Clean Water

Reports have been done. The evidence is clear. Providing poor communities with safe water is a life-transforming work of mercy, and it can be accomplished even where others have said success would be impossible. We credit this success and the wonderful results clean water produces to Fr. Fabian’s charisma and commitment, to the professionalism of his team, and to the generosity of friends like you.

These three things have produced astounding results.

The proof is illustrated on the map on page 9. Since 2018, 39 effective water systems have been installed through Cross Catholic Outreach’s partnership with Good Samaritan Water Sanitation Services, and the impact of that effort has benefitted 387,300 precious people — and counting!

With your help, Fr. Fabian wants to extend that blessing to even more communities in dire need.

“This year we want to bring clean water to 15 more communities, which will provide water for about 170,000 more people,” said Fr. Fabian. He smiles broadly when he shares this visionary plan, even though he knows the work won’t be easy.

“We have faced a few challenges where we go drilling wells, because some of these areas are very, very much up the hills, we don’t even think we will get water,” he said. “But with faith and also seeing the needs of the people, we take the risk. And often we see the miracle of God, that some of these areas that nobody thinks that we will get water, we are able to strike water. Some of the communities doubt us. They say, look, even the government has tried six times, the government has tried several times and they are not able to get water.”

Fr. Fabian is undaunted by this challenge because he has seen God bless this project before. Still, he intends to attack the problem with practical tools as well. With your support, Fr. Fabian will be able to do surveys to locate the water table. His team is also able to drill very deep, hundreds of meters below ground, to ensure he is striking safe, abundant water that won’t vanish during the dry season.

This is the vision we are praying you will join with us to bring to 15 more villages suffering from extreme water scarcity, chronic thirst and waterborne illness. Please meet this urgent need and save lives!
Spreading Hope in Kenya

Completed Wells  Proposed Wells
CLEAN WATER

- Bless the lives of 170,000 people by providing clean, safe water for 15 communities.
- Train water committees to manage and make basic repairs on the new water systems and to manage the collection of a small annual water fee to be used for well maintenance.
- Facilitate workshops on water, sanitation, hygiene and agriculture to help communities improve their health, protect the water supply and strengthen their harvests.
- Significantly reduce instances of waterborne diseases.
- Work through local parishes to reach families with the love of Christ and strengthen their relationship with the Catholic Church.
- Improve consistent participation in enriching activities such as school, Mass and agriculture.

Communities in the Diocese of Mombasa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Village</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kisimenyi</td>
<td>2,835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mwakinggali</td>
<td>8,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maweni</td>
<td>10,430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Mary’s Kwale Seminary</td>
<td>25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matano Manne</td>
<td>11,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kichakasimba</td>
<td>3,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bombolulu</td>
<td>13,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lungalunga</td>
<td>38,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>112,165</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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Communities in the Diocese of Machakos

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Village</th>
<th>Population</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tatha</td>
<td>2,340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mananja</td>
<td>6,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matuu</td>
<td>14,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kithioko</td>
<td>19,105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaskeu</td>
<td>7,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kavatini</td>
<td>3,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senda</td>
<td>5,310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>57,855</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A Mother’s Plea

“We travel some seven kilometers every day, fetching water that is not even clean. The water makes a lot of people complain about abdominal pains, and when they are tested, they are tested for typhoid, dysentery and amoebae. So, we are requesting clean water which will save our life and other villagers. If clean water comes, we will be free from harmful animals and we will not leave early to fetch water and we will not come across elephants and poisonous snakes. So, we are requesting clean water so that we use and we won’t get sick. We use that water for domestic chores, and it will help the community. So I am advocating for clean water because it will be advantageous to the community. Thank you.”

~ Irene Ngolo, 42, mother of two in the village of Covechili
Water’s Wide-Reaching Benefits

Education

Less time fetching water means more time for children to attend school and for parents to tend their crops.

This water tank serves the students of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Girls High School in Sagalla.

Agriculture

More water means healthier crops and livestock and the possibility of irrigation.

A water committee gives a tour of its tree nursery, which depends on the improved water access made possible by the installation of a new local water system.

Spiritual Outreach

Parish participation is one of the first things to improve when a village gains a water system.

During the blessing of the new water system in Kitwii, Father Vincent prays for the benefactors who supported the project.
Components of a Quality Water System

Each water system installed by Good Samaritan Water Sanitation Services will have a **borehole** — a well drilled and cased to a depth of at least 200 meters. This ensures the equipment will reach down into the clean, abundant water table and produce safe and refreshing water for the community for many years to come.

**Water kiosks** will be constructed and used to dispense water. The water committee will hire a community member to run the kiosk during daylight hours so that women and children are no longer risking their safety to collect water after dusk or before dawn. Families will simply visit the kiosk, pay a modest water fee and fill their containers with safe, clean water.

**Elevated water tanks** will be able to store up to 10,000 liters of clean water. Elevating the water tanks helps ensure they will be safe from vandalism and interference from wild animals. As shown in the photo above, **GF-80 solar panels** are fixed to the top of each tank. The panels power a **Grundfos solar water pump**, which is fitted inside the borehole and draws the water up from the ground. On using solar power, Archbishop Kivuva told us, “We are not costing anybody anything in terms of petrol or diesel or electricity — except God’s sun, and you know we have plenty of it here!”
Maria Kilonzo drinks clean water from the new water system in Kitwii.
Financial Summary

Borehole/Well
- Drilling $445,500
- Pipes & Fittings $58,359

Solar Water Pumping System
- Solar Pump (Grundfos SQF 2.5-2) $52,800
- Submersible Cable 10 sq. mm $63,000
- GF 80 Solar Panels $123,900
- Control Kit & Switch Box $13,020

Elevation Structure for Solar Panels & Water Tank
- Steel Roofing Sheets, Piping, Cement & Building Supplies $44,325
- 10,000 Liter Water Tank $15,000
- Labor $14,835

Water Dispensing Kiosk
- Cement, Sand, Stones & Ballast $27,000
- Roofing & Building Materials $2,715
- Labor $7,425

Training
- Workshop on Water, Sanitation, Hygiene & Agriculture $12,045
- Workshop for Committee Members on Finance & Water System Maintenance $7,500
- Lodging Accommodations for Workshop Trainers $7,800

Program Investment
- Geological Survey & Laboratory Tests $31,860
- Land/Drilling Permit $16,875
- Transportation Maintenance $20,400
- Staff Salaries & Benefits $46,881
- Rent, Utilities & Office Supplies $38,760
- Cross Catholic Outreach Project Management, Monitoring & Reporting $210,000

Total $1,260,000
Open the Floodgates of Life

Water is more than an essential human need. It is the element of our Baptism and has been a historic sign of God’s mercy. Our Lord bestowed this blessing on the Hebrews twice as they wandered through the desert. In that case, he miraculously caused water to spring from the rocks.

Today, we invite you to participate in another miracle of God’s provision by helping the Church serve as a conduit of his love to the world.

Your generous gift will help cover the cost to transform "miles into meters" by installing water systems in 15 communities, refreshing the bodies and spirits of 170,000 people. Thank you for your steadfast love for Kenya’s most vulnerable communities!

Total Amount Needed: $1,260,000

Suggested Gifts

$16,561
Water for Life Sponsor
will provide clean water for 2,235 people

$8,507
Abundant Water Sponsor
will provide clean water for 1,148 people

$5,009
Wells of Salvation Sponsor
will provide clean water for 676 people

$2,505
Living Water Sponsor
will provide clean water for 338 people

Or donate whatever amount the Lord places on your heart. It will be greatly appreciated!

Go to CrossCatholic.org/kenya or scan the code to give online.

Stretch out your hand to the poor, so that your blessing may be complete.
SIRACH 7:32
Our Mission
We mobilize the global Catholic Church to transform the poor and their communities materially and spiritually for the glory of Jesus Christ.

How We Serve
Rather than create new institutions to distribute aid, we support existing ministries and churches already serving the poor. In addition to being the most cost-effective way of helping the poor, empowering these ministries allows us to support the Church’s spiritual mission and its important position of leadership in poor communities.

Good Stewardship
We consider every gift we receive as a precious resource from God. We direct every donation to its intended project, provide honest and accurate reports to our donors, and keep overhead costs to an industry low. We handle funds with utmost integrity and hold our ministry partners in the field to the same high standards by asking them to document costs and the impact of their outreach.

Our Promise to You!
Donations from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred through June 30, 2023, the close of our ministry’s fiscal year. In the event that more funds are raised than needed to fully fund the project, the excess funds, if any, will be used to meet the most urgent needs of the ministry.