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BUILDING, CHANGING AND  
TRANSFORMING LIVES

Well D549

This BCT well is dedicated  
to Luke Hart. May he rest  
in peace eternally

March 2023

[www.chepskenya.org](http://www.chepskenya.org)

**A REPORT ON A SHALLOW WELL DUG  
IN TANA RIVER COUNTY, KENYA**

**2023**

## BACKGROUND

It is reported that:








- Lack of access to safe drinking water is the number one crisis worldwide,
- At least 1 billion people all over the world lack safe drinking water, more than 80% of whom live in rural areas,
- 2.5 billion people (37% of global population) to date lack access to adequate sanitation,
- Such people are forced to practice open defecation, which has been shown to cause diarrhoea, the second leading killer of children below 5 years of age,
- Every 20 Seconds, a child dies due to poor sanitation,
- 80% of diseases in developing countries are caused by unsafe water and poor sanitation, and
- Access to good sanitation and safe water could save 1.5 million children per year.

The situation in Kenya is no different. With 80% of its land found in arid and semi-arid areas, recurrent droughts, increased water demand and poor management of water supply have led to 17 million out of the 40 million people living in the country to lack access to the valuable commodity.







## CHEPs WASH PROJECTS

CHEPs aims to save lives through provision of safe water and suitable sanitation facilities. We strive to improve the accessibility of water to alleviate thirst, improve farming, and lower poverty among marginalized communities. We do so by providing water to the worst affected communities through digging wells, drilling of boreholes, construction of sanitary facilities, educating communities on hand washing, hygiene, and disease prevention.

We have so far:

-  Dug 549 shallow wells
-  Rehabilitated and cupped 537 wells
-  Re-dug 50 dried wells
-  Drilled 3 boreholes
-  Installed hand pumps for 2 institutions
-  Constructed 46 sanitary facilities
-  Constructed 60 water storage tanks

This has helped ease the water problem, encouraged farming, growing of trees, improved access to clean and safe water and good sanitation practices. Some of the key achievements of our water projects include: -

-  Increased access to safe, and adequate water and sanitation, resulting in reduction of diseases,
-  Water availability for drinking and domestic use by households,
-  Increased school attendance by children who no longer walk long distances to fetch water,
-  Women have more time to undertake other socio-economic activities,
-  Increased household income as a result of using water for income generating activities such as farming and
-  Afforestation and environmental conservation to mitigate drought.

## CHEPs SHALLOW WELLS PROJECT IN TANA RIVER

Tana River is one of the 47 counties of Kenya, located southeast and 582 Km from Nairobi. The county has a population of 315,943 people, most of them marginalized, extremely poor, and living under very harsh conditions. They lack essential needs including water, food, education, healthcare, electricity, and sanitation. The county was named after the river Tana, which previously cut through it, leading to the formation of villages around it as the communities settled nearby to farm and tap into its water for irrigation. The river however changed its course some years ago, leaving the communities with neither water for irrigation nor drinking. Many villages are therefore forced to turn to digging a few shallow wells, and trekking long distances to fetch water, both of which cannot sustain their farming, resulting in widespread hunger in addition to thirst, over the year. Lack of rain for over a year and consequent drought has exacerbated the situation. Sanitation on the other hand is exceedingly poor leading to regular outbreaks of diarrheal diseases that are causing loss of lives.

Dumi is a remote village in Tana River County. Water supply in the village is scarce leading to long term suffering. Young children are commonly seen carrying jerrycans every day in search of water at the expense of schooling, lowering the communities' literacy, and thereby aggravating the vicious cycle of poverty. The men are forced to turn to menial jobs at the nearest major towns to earn a living, while the women remain behind to look after the families, fetch water and collect firewood.



Map of Kenya showing Garsen, the sub county where Dumi village is located



With support from Beta Charitable Trust, CHEPs dug and constructed a shallow wells in Dumi village of Tanariver. A suitable beneficiary family, which was in desperate need of water, was identified during a community meeting, and assigned, by the community, the wells as the custodians. The digging and construction was successful and the custodian family and those living nearby are now relieved of the long distances they used to trek searching for water. It is estimated that the well serves on average 100 people daily.

## The wells

Digging in progress



The well



## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge Beta Charitable Trust for sponsoring this well dedicated to Luke Hart and convey our sincere condolences to the family and friends of the deceased. We are grateful for the continued support and look forward to long term collaboration for the benefit of destitute communities in Kenya.

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