

# Newsletter 2022

Weinstadt, July 2022

## Dear friends of Institute Water in Africa!

Difficult times in Africa: Climate change is also making itself felt there. Raining seasons are shifting or failing altogether. Drought and falling groundwater levels are the result. Then there is the threat of a wheat shortage due to the war in Ukraine.

Then a well is built where there was none before! It saves a long arduous journey. Every jerrycan that fills up with clean water is a small miracle: people stay healthy. Even in times of drought there is enough water. Girls have time to go to school again, women and girls do not have to fear being raped on the way to fetch water. A whole life is changed, and for many years to come, because the well was built professionally.

Difficult times here too: we have hotter and hotter summers, fear of war, inflation. Nevertheless, we want to give the poorest of the poor in Africa access to clean water. Right now, we need to stand up for them. For the people who are otherwise forgotten by everyone, these are small miracles:

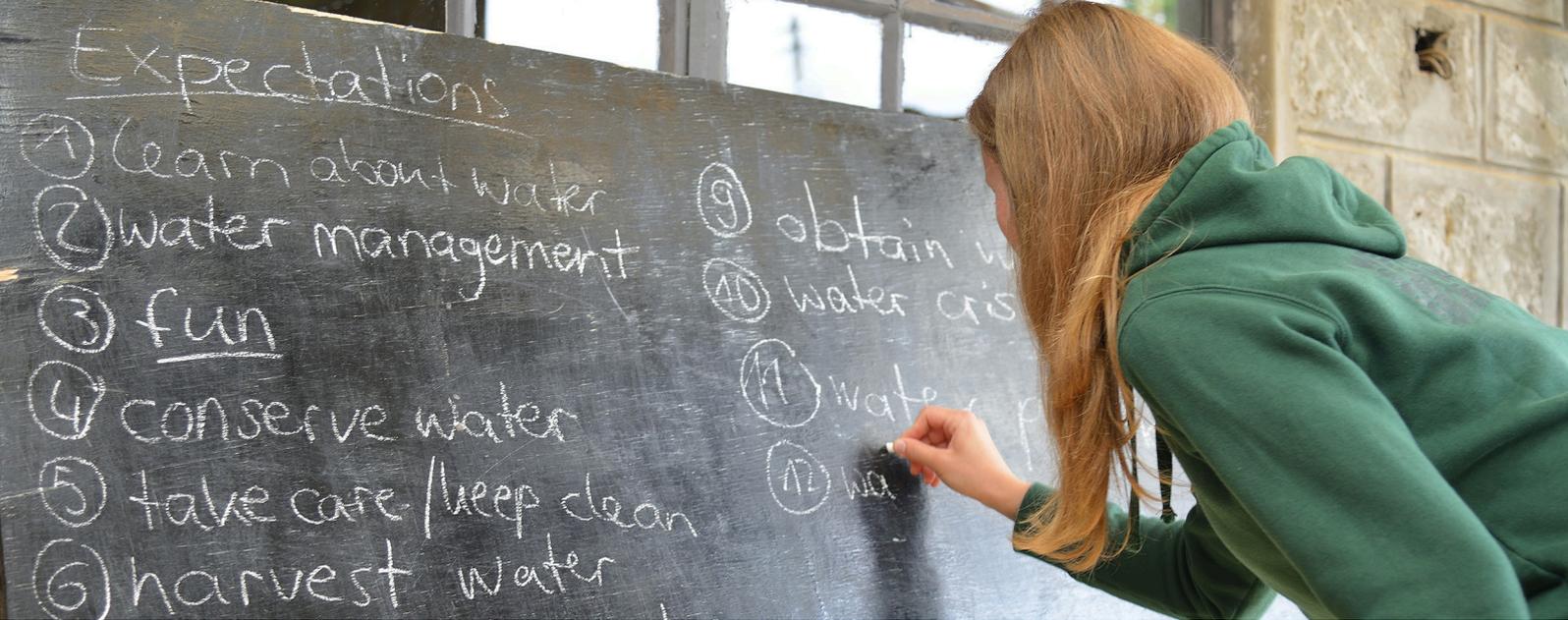
„I assure you (Matthew 25:40): Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.“

Help make small miracles happen and change lives!

*Catrin Baisch*



Wir  
sprechen  
fließend  
Wasser



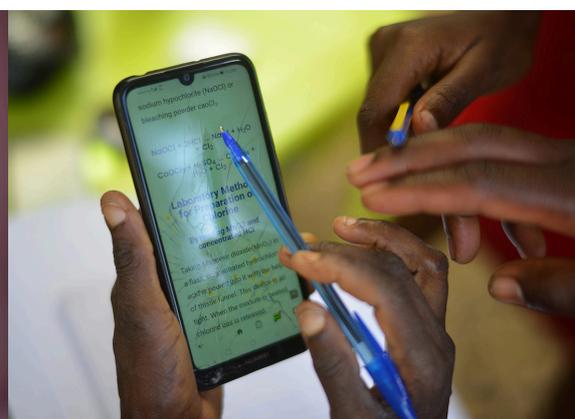
## WASH Seminar

This year, from 21 to 22 April, we held our first seminar, „They show them that God is thinking of them. Jesus says: first seminar took place. Four days before, on Easter Monday, we left Stuttgart. The seminar was held in Eldoret, West Kenya, at the Badilisha Maisha Center of Eldoret Kids e.V., an organisation that cares for street children in Eldoret. WASH stands for Water - Sanitation - Hygiene. These were the contents of the seminar. Flory Lechabo, Medical Officer, from Adi in the Democratic Republic of Congo, came especially to teach about hygiene. In small working groups, the participants had the task of discussing the questions „What is water“, „What is clean water“, „Where does water come from“ and „What is good hygiene“. These questions and topics were then discussed in detail. In the two days of intensive teaching, the approximately thirty participants learned a lot that they can now implement at home and in their village. Their living situation will then improve noticeably.



## Workshop Water Treatment

In the week following the WASH seminar, a five-day workshop on water treatment was held at the same location. Four participants from each of four villages with good knowledge of mathematics and chemistry were invited. After two days of theory on the water cycle, setting up a water supply and the various adapted technologies of water treatment, it was „hands on“. For three days, the workshop participants learned about the different steps of water treatment with sodium hypochlorite. They had to be practised until they became second nature.





Sodium hypochlorite is produced by electrolysis of a saturated saline solution. Common salt costs almost nothing compared to firewood and charcoal. Water treatment with sodium hypochlorite eliminates the need for firewood and charcoal. This reduces deforestation and gives the water table a chance to rise again.



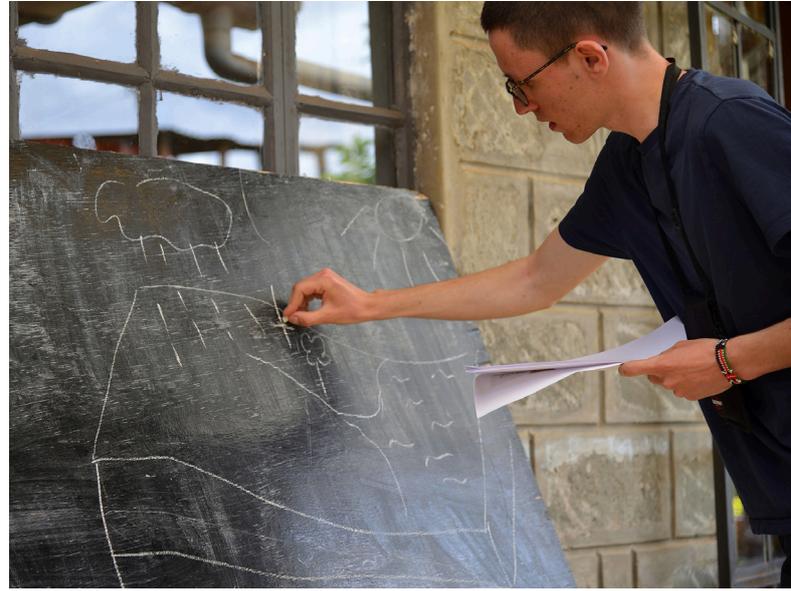
## Water for 2000 Inhabitants in Shikunga

Three days after the workshop, we went to the next project: Brunnenau at Shikunga Anglican Church Kenya. On Monday 3 May, we started work on a borehole for a hand pump on the church premises.

The report of the preliminary geological survey by a geologist indicated a drilling depth of about 80 metres. At a depth of 42 metres the ground was very sandy and threatened to collapse if we continued to drill with compressed air. To avoid this, we switched to drilling with water mixed with polymers. It only went a few metres a day, but everything held. On the fourth day, we hit rock at a depth of 54 metres. We couldn't get any further with the current drilling method and switching to compressed air would cause the borehole to collapse. Thank God! there was already enough water at a depth of 54 metres.

We finished the drilling work and started to install the filter pipes and to concrete the platform around the borehole. Three days later, the concrete had dried and we could now carry out our 24-hour pumping test. We worked all day and all night, measuring and recording the groundwater level at the borehole at prescribed intervals. After 24 hours, it was clear that 920 litres of water per hour were available in the borehole. Enough to operate a hand pump.

It took only a few hours to assemble the hand pump and deliver water. We then handed over the project to the community and headed back to Kisumu on Lake Victoria. 2,000 residents in Shikunga now have clean water.



## Internship Abroad - With IWFA to Kenya

Jannis Wurster

From 18 April, I was able to complete an internship abroad at Institute Water for Africa e.V. for almost four weeks. Since I have finished my Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Protection Engineering at the University of Stuttgart, I have now experienced and applied a lot of what I learned in practice. In the engineering course I also had lectures on water supply, water treatment and wastewater disposal in addition to the scientific background.

Together with Jürgen Baisch, the journey then began in Stuttgart, via Amsterdam and Nairobi to Eldoret in Kenya. There, the water seminar took place, where I also passed on knowledge, for example, about the water cycle, the ecosystem, water treatment through UV light or how to deal with waste. The waste situation is also related to the water quality of the groundwater through the ecosystem network. As an illustration, organic waste can be composted. This creates fertile soil for farming, reducing chemical fertilisation and protecting groundwater from harmful chemicals. For me, it was a great pleasure to share knowledge and answer the everyday questions of the participants with Jürgen and Flory. The seminar contents were very helpful and relevant for the villagers, this was reflected back to us by great interest and commitment. Some participants even wrote and performed songs about what they had learned.

Afterwards, we went on to drill a well at Butere. I was fascinated by the individual work steps, the care and professionalism of the drilling team. It was technically an exciting experience to see how unexpected challenges arose due to different soil conditions and how solutions were then sought and successfully implemented. I learned a lot, also about life in Kenya, the living conditions and circumstances. The plight of the people in dealing

with water is clear. Therefore, I hope that through the service of IWFA more and more people will receive the valuable help for water supply. I thank the team and all supporters of IWFA for the important work and the formative impressions I was able to gather..



## Our Next Projects

### September / October: Drinking Water for a Kindergarten and a School in Uganda (Projekt 20503)

In April 2021, we surveyed a new project area. The village of Adyangowe is located in the former rebel area of the Lord Resistance Army (LRA) in Uganda. The civil war destroyed the basic infrastructure. Here, 259 children go to kindergarten and primary school. Every week, at least 50 children get water-

borne diseases such as diarrhoea, bilharzia and malaria. The number of school dropouts is particularly high among the girls, as they have to fetch water from far away.

With your financial support we will, together with our local partner, build a well for the kindergarten and the primary school. The village population will also benefit from the deep well with a hand pump. We are still short of about 4,500 euros to cover the costs.



## Call for Help From the Democratic Republic of Congo

(Projekt-Nr. 20306)

About three weeks ago, we received a call for help from missionary friends in Ilakala, South Kivu region, in the Democratic Republic of Congo. 3271 inhabitants share 2 taps to get water. The missionary couple writes:

„This water collection was done years ago by an NGO „Mercy Corps“ to help the local community and the only thing they could do was to set up two public taps. That was the only thing they could do. They left the water to the local community who took care of it and did everything else they needed to repair and distribute it. The village stretches over 4 kilometres and has 3,271 inhabitants. The two taps from which water is fetched are not enough to supply this population. The water supply is taken care of by the local community under the leadership of the village head (chief). They have no financial resources or support from anyone. So the biggest need is to pipe water into the village along the main road and build a few more taps so that many people have access to water.“

The missionary couple asked us if we could develop the water supply for the population in such a way that it meets all the requirements for a village with 3271 inhabitants.

A site visit by a hydraulic engineer is essential to assess what needs to be done to make the water supply suitable for everyday use. The travel costs for the site visit are about 2,400 to 2,500 euros.

We wish you a wonderful summer.

Kind regards,  
Jürgen Baisch and team



## A Service or Information Evening at Your Place? Invite us!

A service with us in your congregation? We'd love to! From a short report to a sermon to a full evening programme with multimedia lecture, anything is possible.

Contact: [office@water-for-africa.org](mailto:office@water-for-africa.org)  
phone +49 70 44 - 9 06 81 16

## Unser Spendenkonto

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If more donations are received for one project than required, these will be used for another of our projects.

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