

Yoram Beris, Tanzania

Yoram is the borehole pump attendant of Ndedo village in Tanzania, East Africa.

Ndedo is a Masai settlement. Its people have been nomadic herders, travelling around northern Tanzania for hundreds of years.

In recent times, as land and water becomes increasingly scarce, many Masai have settled in villages like Ndedo.

In 2001, the community worked with WaterAid to map the area in order to set up a safe water supply.

Here, Yoram tells us how life has changed since the borehole was installed in Ndedo. >>



Q&A

Hello Yoram. What exactly does your job involve?

"I operate the engine and keep it clean and safe and run it for the community."

How did everyone manage before?

"In the past we used to get our water from the same holes as the cattle, but now it's all separate it's much cleaner. The traditional wells were also very dangerous with women falling in and injuring themselves. The pits would also often collapse killing anyone inside."

How else has life changed since the borehole?

"Now we have clean clothes and people are building permanent houses here instead of travelling in search for water for the cows. Personally this project has given me responsibility so that my status has been raised. By operating the pump I have been trained so I have a new skill."



↑ At the end of the interview, 60 year old Nakwetikya added:

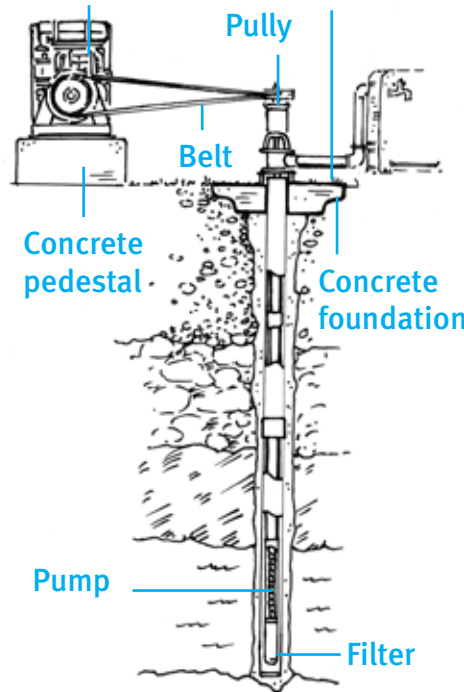
"I have something to say. The situation here was bleak. Women would fall in and die (in the water holes), and because we shared them with animals, men would also get pushed in by their cows. Every year there would be an outbreak of cholera.

People would have diarrhoea all over the place. I can't begin to count the number of deaths.

"When I heard the news that we are going to get clean water I felt like a huge burden was lifted from me. I'm too old to crawl down those pits now to get water, and luckily all I have to do is turn on the tap."

Electric pumps are used where the water table is very deep and the water has to be pumped to the surface. The water is usually stored in tanks before being piped to tapstands.

Diesel pump engine Supply pipe to tapstand



Diesel pump system ↑



Tanzania

Population: 36.9m
Infant mortality: 165/1000
Life expectancy: 45.9 years
Water supply coverage: 62%
Sanitation coverage: 47%
Below poverty line: 35.7%
Adult literacy: 69%

Women and children often spend over two hours a day collecting water, while journeys of six to seven hours are not uncommon.