A village transformed by clean water
Surrounded by mountains in Tanzania’s rural Babati District, Sangara is a village of small-scale farmers raising crops like maize, beans and peas. Bicycles and motorcycles, locally known as ‘boda-boda’ are used as a means of transport for people and goods. Some use donkeys to transport jerry cans filled with water from nearby villages. People in the village are experiencing more frequent water scarcity as a result of poor infrastructure planning and the effects of climate change.

Just 65 percent of the 429 villages in the Manyara region had access to clean water in 2021. To address the issue of water insecurity, WaterAid partnered with The Coca-Cola Foundation to bring access to clean water to villages like Sangara. As part of this project, WaterAid installed four water points, bringing water to 2,500 people in the village of Sangara. WaterAid works closely with the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency and the Babati District Council to ensure that water points are inclusive, accessible and to provide subsidized funding for the most marginalized people in the community. Without the burden of walking for miles over harsh terrain to fetch water, people's lives have been transformed.

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With clean water next to her house, Neema now has more time and energy to care for her children. (WaterAid)
Neema Daudi, 30, gave birth to her sixth child a few weeks ago. With support from The Coca-Cola Foundation, a water point was installed right outside her house in Sangara village, allowing her to fetch water in under a minute.

“What a change!” she says. “I used to walk for over an hour at 6 a.m. to fetch water at a nearby village.” The downhill journey was tolerable, but the journey back up with a full five-gallon jerrycan to the mountaintop where she lives was extremely difficult, she says. “I had to do this twice a day to get enough water to prepare food for my family.”

Neema Joel (pictured left) and her husband provided a parcel of their 2-acre farm in Sangara for the water storage tank and water point to be constructed. Before clean water arrived, it took her four hours a day—two hours in the morning and two hours in the evening—to fetch water on foot. “On the road we often met hyenas,” she said. “It was scary. “I now have enough time to rest. I have water nearby.”

Now that water is readily available, Neema has started preparing a vegetable garden outside her house. “Before, we only planted vegetables during a rainy season or bought them at the market. Now I can save that money.”

A lack of clean water increases the risk of communicable diseases. Due to the limited availability of water most citizens in Sangara weren’t able to prioritize bathing. That’s changed now, says Neema.

“The availability of water nearby will significantly improve our personal hygiene.”
Daudi Samwel, 26, is a married father of three who drives a motorbike taxi for a living. Daudi’s house is just two minutes from the new water point. “I am so happy,” he says. Before, he used to ride his bike a long distance to fetch water.

“Having a water point nearby means I can save that fuel and use it for a paid trip to gain more income for my family.”

It has also made a huge difference in the health of his children. “We use water for cooking, drinking and washing our clothes. Now, with Covid-19, the availability of flowing water nearby means we can wash our hands more frequently and help keep disease at bay.”

Daudi says having clean water much closer to his house has helped his family wash their hands more often and stay healthier. It also saves fuel for his taxi business. (WaterAid)
Petro Ami lives with his 27-year-old son, Lucas, who was born with a disability. Lucas fully depends on his father to take care of him, including washing and feeding him. He needs close supervision and cannot be left alone. Before the water point was installed, Petro had to walk for over an hour to fetch water for the family, leaving Lucas home alone. Now, Petro’s house is very close to the water point, which brings him peace of mind.

“I can now leave my child freely on our compound without worrying too much about him going missing,” he says.
Dickson Matei, community development officer for the Babati District Council, says the availability of clean water in Sangara village has improved the lives of residents both socially and economically.

“We’ve seen a significant reduction of waterborne diseases and improved hygiene of our people,” he says. “We are grateful. With water points very close to many homes, citizens can now focus on economic activities and gain more income for their families.”

WaterAid and partners trained local community members in financial management, environmental conservation and water governance, which help ensure community ownership and long-term sustainability. Inclusion was key to the project’s success, Dickson says. The project was explicit about gender mainstreaming and the inclusion of people with disabilities. Women were selected and empowered to actively participate.

“We feel a deep sense of responsibility to ensure projects like these thrive and continue to benefit our people for many years to come,”

—Dickson Matei, Babati District Council