



## BOREHOLES: ILEMI TRIANGLE

Funding	£93,000 2007
Location	Ilemi Triangle region, Turkana, Kenya
Key Services	Set up of boreholes and hand pumps
Beneficiaries	Approximately 18,000 people



### BOREHOLE DRILLING IN THE ILEMI TRIANGLE

**The Ilemi Triangle, in the Kaikor region of northern Kenya, is one of the most desolate and remote areas of our planet. Its harsh climatic and environmental conditions are coupled with the political and inter-tribal instability that affect its inhabitants.**

Members of the MCSPA have been interacting with the local communities in the Kaikor region, for a number of years, and in Turkana as a whole since the 1980s, opening inlay roads, and establishing a base within the region. Through the years, a relationship of trust has been built, even with nomadic clans roaming the semi-desert vast plains.

The first priority for the local communities is invariably the provision of water for themselves and their animals. In the mid 80's, while they had already seen water wells,

they were not familiar with rock dams or earth pan dams. Once they experienced the positive results from having water available, they became keen to help identify suitable spots for both types of dams.

The United Nations 2000 Report indicates the urgent need to increase the number of facilities to harvest rainwater (such as dams), before proceeding to drill more boreholes which deplete the underground water resources. Following various programmes of dam construction, the present project of borehole-drilling has been realized with the main aim of creating reliable sources of drinkable water at each population center where we already have in operation a nutritional unit for children aged 2-7.

The services of an expert water diviner, Bro. Dario of the Comboni Fathers, were called on and he toured Kaikor close to the locations of the Nutritional units, marking suitable sites in each targeted community. Mr. Eliud Mwai, a certified geologist from Nairobi, was also employed to visit all the targeted settlements and did his own sounding tests. The combination of both observations allowed the management team based at Kaikor to enter into a contract with Hydro Well Water to drill sufficient boreholes to cover the basic water needs of the villages where the nurseries are located.

At the same time, the local communities were involved in planning and educational meetings, resulting in the election of water committees and the selection of two members per settlement to be trained in the practicalities of pump maintenance, hygiene and sanitation, and other procedures.

Each community also cleared an access road to the drilling site, and contributed 35 goats to the drilling costs. This was brought down from the originally proposed 75 per borehole, with the understanding that the borehole will belong to the Nutritional Unit, but all the area residents will also be entitled to use the well at the agreed times, providing they do not interfere with the schedule of the NU's. This is important when the children are having their morning wash.



With a growing awareness of the potential for agricultural developments when a sufficient and reliable source of water is created in their midst, the level of cooperation of most communities has been strong and the project has borne fruit, with high quality water and a good yield.

Approximately 1,500 children of nursery school are the direct beneficiaries, and the 18,000 strong population, and their animals, also benefit.

Part of this project was funded with the profit from the New Ways Ball and part from a grant making body.