

Non-profit Newsletter Article

Nyella's long walk

Nine-year-old Nyella (left) remembers life before the pipeline came to her West Kenyan community.

Each day she left school at noon and began her daily trek to fetch water. Nyella's dusty, two-hour walk took her along a steep, rock-strewn path to the stream that wound its way from the highlands to the valley below.

At the stream she joined the long line of women and children waiting under the hot sun to fill their plastic containers. An hour later, with her own container filled, she would turn and carry her heavy load back home.

"I remember being very tired after fetching water," says Nyella. "I carried a five-litre container. I'd get home and my body would be full of pain. And because we didn't have very much water, I didn't bathe very often or wash my clothes."

But now life is much different for Nyella and her family. World Vision helped their community by installing a new pipeline that brings safe, clean water right into the village.

"Now I bathe everyday and go to school more often," says Nyella. Like all of the children in her community, she has more time to attend class, complete her studies and play with her friends.

"I can't tell you what a change having this water right in our community has made," says Nyella's mother, Margaret. In this drought-prone region, lack of water was destroying the family's crops, killing their livestock and threatening their livelihood. "If it weren't for the water, we would have had to move away," she says.

Instead, their garden is now full of spinach, kale, passion fruit, bananas, mangoes, lemons, tomatoes, oranges, sweet potatoes and pigeon peas that grow where nothing would have grown before. Thanks to the water supply from the piped network, this family enjoys a continuous harvest of fresh produce, with enough left over to sell to their neighbours.

Water has given an entire community new hope for the future. And best of all, says Margaret, "my children are healthy."

Client: Agency - Blue North

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Details: I love helping donors see how their gifts are making a difference in the lives of people – and stories are a great way to do that.

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