

# The Samburu Project

## Needs Assessment

### November, 2007

This report was taken in November, 2007, by Mike Rossi in conjunction with Lucas Lekwale, Mussa Lekwale, Melinda Woywood, and the various community Elders and women of the recipients of the water wells located around Wamba, Kenya.

The primary focus of this report revolves around the current and future water wells and the subsequent opportunities that are a direct result of fresh and obtainable water.

The Samburu communities are extremely appreciative of what Ms. Kristen Kosinski, the various donors, and The Samburu Project in general have achieved to date and are eager to work together to further assist them in becoming more self sustaining.

With respect to the primary goal of bringing more wells to the region, the following are major points of interest to the community:

1. Agricultural activities
2. Dairy goat production
3. Bee keeping
4. Beading

In addition, there are a few areas of interest and needs that were discussed from an administrative view, which are:

5. Water well drilling rig
6. The Samburu Project administration building and internet center
7. Vehicles/Motorcycle
8. Student Exchange

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#### 1. **AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES:**

Solving the problem of bringing fresh water to the communities has directly brought new opportunities of growing fresh vegetables and other agriculture products. This topic was discussed in every meeting and seems to be a logical and realistic goal that can be achieved.

At the Milimani well, the Milimani Womens Group has already begun farming under the supervision of Mr. Reuben L'Kaldero, the Project Coordinator. Mr. L'Kaldero

also works with the Kenya Horticultural Development program, among other institutions, and seems to be a very knowledgeable and charitable person. The Milimani Womens Group was formed in September of 2005, with a membership of 20 women. In addition to their farming initiatives, they have begun harvesting honey and beeswax, beading, and the internal financing method called "Merry Go Round". Their dairy goat project has been partially funded by a U.S. citizen, Mr. Andy Burgess, and they are looking for additional funds to complete.

The Group's goal is to eliminate poverty, improve the livelihoods of its members and families, and provide an example for other communities benefiting from the water wells.

We feel the Milimani well, and the activities surrounding it, should be the focus and "pilot" training ground to test agricultural, dairy production, bee keeping, and beading projects for the other communities. This will allow for the quickest and most cost effective approach for implementation and expansion. In addition, the sharing of information amongst the community representatives will enhance productivity and unity.

A universal comment amongst the communities was that of water dispersion to other areas outside the immediate well areas for farming. Now that members walk a shorter distance to obtain water (which previously was only for human consumption), it has become a question of hauling water for agricultural use. The issue is laying out a plan that would be the most cost effective way to do this, i.e. additional wells or piping, sub-pump stations, and water tanks. We feel this is something to consider evaluating at the Milimani well first. **See Proposal for Diesel Engine Generator.**

To achieve this, we recommend locating a professional(s) in at least the areas of agriculture, dairy, and bee keeping. This can be done through the Peace Corps, various agriculture colleges in California, the US, other countries, and other suppliers of expertise and volunteerism which areas are yet to be researched. In addition to bringing in expertise, it would be advantageous to send a few "locals" to train on either a working farm out of the area or to an educational facility.

## 2. **DAIRY GOAT PRODUCTION:**

See Proposal for Dairy Goat Production.

## 3. **BEE KEEPING:**

See Proposal for Bee Keeping.

#### 4. **BEADING:**

All communities were very interested in beading as a source of business and profit generation. We don't have a real idea or sense of marketability of these products both in the local and international markets. We did agree that the products most likely should be authentic to the Samburu and manufactured to a specific high quality. This may be an area for Kiva or other micro-financing NGO's, but in any event, the markets have to be evaluated first.

#### 5. **WATER WELL DRILLING RIG:**

There has been mention of a donor wanting to purchase a rig on behalf of The Samburu Project. While in Nairobi, we met with Mr. Ajay, who provided us with some valuable information, albeit it must be taken with a grain of salt as he is the current provider of drilling wells for us and thus has a biased view.

Taking an educated guess and without performing any economic analysis, if we were to obtain a rig, together with all the support equipment, we should be able to offer donors a lower price per well in addition to providing a small profit for The Samburu Project's needs. In addition to purchasing this equipment and constructing a maintenance facility, we would need to pay for skilled labor for a certain amount of time to provide training, both operational and maintenance, to local staff. This may be provided by the manufacturer and needs to be researched.

We should be able to obtain a list of qualified NGO's operating in Kenya and direct market to them. We should be able to supply our service at a lower margin than that of "market" competitors thus enabling NGO's to help NGO's bring water to needed areas at a lower cost.

One operational issue that was discussed with our current supplier was that of keeping a full salaried staff, regardless of demand. We feel we can work with our locally trained staff on a per contract basis, thus eliminating that monthly overhead.

#### 6. **ADMINISTRATION BUILDING IN WAMBA**

We feel a presence of an administration building in Wamba would be beneficial for The Samburu Project and provide a focal point for current and future activities. In addition to providing administrative functions, it would house an internet café, and possibly a small cultural center. We also discussed a "bunk house" for volunteers and community members while participating in training functions at the Milimani well and agricultural site. **See Proposal for Administration Building.**

7. **MOTORCYCLE/VEHICLE(S)**

Mr. Lucas Lekwale needs transportation to the various communities for his frequent visits. To date, he has had to hire a car which has been both expensive and difficult at times.

We discussed also the need for at least one off road vehicle for the frequent trips to Nairobi that previously has been hired. We should be able to hire the vehicle out on occasion to volunteers and other visitors flying into Nairobi.

8. **STUDENT EXCHANGE:**

Although not high on the priority list, a student exchange should be something to look at in the future.