

**Hello KENYA CLEAN WATER Partners and Participants
2015**

February 20,

We finally received the funding from the Rotary Foundation and are starting Phase 2 of this Project in Meru, Kenya.

Phase 1 installed Clean Water Filter and Storage Systems and Taught Basic Sanitation to 22 rural schools serving over 7500 students and teachers.

Phase 2 will install systems in at least 24 rural schools serving over 8000 students and teachers.

One of our Partners, PEAK and the Colorado Partners (Debbie Welden and Rich Fisher and their Group), just returned from Meru and provided the below summary report of their visit. We are fortunate to have excellent “feet-on-the-ground” partners (the Methodist Church of Kenya), PEAK who travel to Meru in January each year, as well as the Meru Rotary Club, to stay in contact with the Schools and assure the sustainability of this Project. The report from PEAK’s trip is below, and photos attached.

I want to remind you that we still have room for a couple more Rotarians and Other Partners to join us for the July Mission Trip to Meru, Kenya. Jan Brockley of Lincoln Rotary and Partner Trinity Methodist Church will be the Group Leader. She is planning to book airfares soon, and we need your commitment, if you’d like to go along on this life-changing Mission Trip. Contact Jan (jessiebrockley@gmail.com) or Joe (jschon@agromac.com).

And now, PEAK’s Report from their January 1, 2015 Mission trip to Meru, Kenya:

Hi Joe -

In brief, here are some basic points from our trip, relating to the Rotary projects (See Attached Photo – PEAK Team from Fort Collins and Aspen):

- A major impact to our trip was the teachers' strike, but we persevered to the best of our ability.

- Lawrence Mathiu and Nathan Ngiti (former headmaster at Kithoca) were of immense help with getting in contact with people from the various schools and accompanying us on the visits.

- Because the schools had been closed for about six weeks, we observed that some of the filters weren't functioning as well as they could, but others were doing really well, and we could tell that the head teachers and school committee were committed to keeping them going.

- Becky Fedak and her husband Chris (former CSU, Fort Collins) joined us to see completed water systems at Rwanyange, Ndiine, and Thuura Day Secondary. Rwanyange and Thuura Day were doing well. We also visited the Bio-Sand Filter production for this project in Meru (See Filter Production Photo and of the Bio-Sand Filters and Tank at Gachua).

- (See Photos of Isaac Teaching Filter, Class and the VHW Training) The Volunteer Health Workers training for the Follow-up Survey Program went really well - and we were thankful that Isaac (Contractor – Running Water International) could participate. He's an amazing teacher, alternating between English and Swahili, motivating people, making them laugh, but all the while emphasizing the seriousness of clean water, sanitation, and hygiene. We had a total of 35 volunteers attending. We them each 1000 Kenya shillings for their time and travel expense and provided lunch as well (lunch cost KES 22,000). We also paid for the transportation for the Samburu folks, so the total cost was Ksh 65,525, or approximately US\$755. (Thanks PEAK for paying for this training expense.....Joe)

- We visited Kamiti Primary School (a PEAK project) and they are doing really well with the filters. The headmaster, Julius, met with us, and it was great to get to know him.

- Kithoka Primary School continues to do really well with their filters. They now have a concrete water tank, provided by SOS (Save Our Souls), which is a big help to them. And, they have a beautiful new greenhouse, as well.

- We visited the three schools in Maua with Former Bishop William, and they are eager to partner with us on their clean water systems (Phase 2 projects 40-41-42). So - we should talk about how to fit them into the schedule.

- We visited Mugae, as well - and provided them with about ten large bags each of maize and beans, as they have been suffering from the drought more than others. I believe they are doing well with the system, and the headmaster met with us for a short time.

- We had a meeting with Rotary Catherine on Sunday, the 11th, and some of us spent the day with her on the 12th, visiting Gachua (doing REALLY well), Ntani (couldn't

see much there, because the only person who met us was the school treasurer and he didn't have a key to the filter room), and Mwiramwanki. Again, here, we weren't able to get into the filter room, as the only person to greet us was one of the watchmen. Gachua was definitely the highlight of that day! They have even improved on our system, running an underground pipe from the tank to the kitchen, so that the water can be transferred to the filters more efficiently and easily. I think they get an A+ for their efforts. (See Photo – Mwiramwanki with Rotary Banner)

- Rich visited five schools, which haven't been assessed yet, on the 12th, assisted by Nathan Ngiti.

- And we provided school supplies, books, etc. to almost all of the schools we visited.

So - that's a brief rundown. We did enjoy some valuable time with our many partners, including dinners at Bishop William's home, Bishop Catherine, and Rotary Catherine, as well as lunch at Lawrence's home. Also, the library is almost complete at Rwanyange and it looks great. Some of our team spent a good bit of time painting there.

Thanks!

Debbie Welden

PEAK and the Colorado Partners