

# HYDRO-PURE

## Report



HydroPure has not only been a project name with the idea of representing the general aim of aiding to improve our water system cleanliness and availability, but it has also been a literal manifestation in what it has been able to achieve. It has impacted lives in a tremendous way in becoming a significant water stress relief, and consequently improving the quality of life for a lot of families.

Through the installation of the three new water taps within the village, a lot has and is still expected to improve. Hand washing was not a commonly practiced phenomenon due to water scarcity. However, with the addition and increased accessibility of clean water, there is improved practice of reducing the spread of viral infections, particularly COVID-19 because the villagers are practicing hand washing with more ease. Additionally, there is an anticipated significant decline in the chances of water-borne disease outbreaks; the likes of cholera and typhoid.

Traditionally, water collection falls on women and girls, as a societal gender role. It is said to be a place where gossip is perpetuated, as water collection is the only activity where particularly women and girls can reunite and catch-up on village matters. Prior to these HydroPure developments, women had to walk long distances to wells that are

normally located outside of the village perimeters, to collect clean water. However, now with the installation of the taps, the water burden is being alleviated over time in terms of the rather long distances that women no longer have to travel to collect water, as is currently the case. Therefore, in the case of students, they have more time on their hands to dedicate to other responsibilities such as school work, household chores and the likes, with the relatively closer proximity of the taps.

In Lesotho, subsistence farming is one of the major ways in which individuals and households sustain themselves. With an improvement in our water availability and accessibility, local farmers are now able to increase crop production as irrigation is becoming less, fully dependent on rainfall. Therefore, our localized nutrition levels are expected to increase. Apart from farming, even the construction of buildings has generally become less burdensome because the availability of water has allowed construction projects to progress much faster than was the case prior.

“Lets’oele le beta pooho” translated as ‘together we are stronger than either of us alone’ is a common saying in our country, which I was able to witness through this project. HydroPure has undeniably brought people together in the manner in which the project was executed. The construction of the excavation trenches, inserting pipes in the ground, backfilling and installing the three standpipes were activities performed by the villagers under the instruction and supervision of a plumber and water engineer. At all three different stations, surrounding villagers were responsible for sparing at least two hours of their morning every day (8:00am – 11:am) to dedicate them to executing the project that they understood was meant to aid, and make life less burdensome for them. Therefore, it has not only been fulfilling to them in seeing the work of their hands coming to success, but it has also instilled in them a protective spirit and appreciation over the work of their hands which are the village taps that they always wanted. HydroPure has indeed been a blessing in need.

## OVERVIEW & DETAILING

From our budget, we worked with the Rural Water Supply Project. This is an organization responsible for public water issues at regional levels. In cooperation, we measured distances across three areas in the village from which we were to extend taps. We went on to compile all the necessary equipment and acquiring price

quotations ranging from the installation of one standpipe to three for comparison and price assessment based on the budget. Based on a total of the R10 000.00 funds provided, we were able to install three standpipes. The team and I spent money on buying equipment and tools, such as globe valves, taps, elbows, tees, pipe-sleeves, adapters, couplings, pillars and stonewalls, of which the quantity needed for each was multiplied by three. From this stage, the village Chief and community Councilor helped in assuring a smooth execution of the project especially in ensuring collaboration with the villagers. We then worked with the people in the construction and set-up of the excavation trenches, the pipelaying, the backfilling trench, stone wall and pipe sleeve.

HydroPure has been a moment of enlightenment to many, including the team itself. Our team of five has had different individual ways they feel this process has been of impact in their lives. They were each interviewed to briefly express how the project has made a difference to them, and below is a translation of their responses;

“It has given me a sense of fulfillment. A slight demonstration of how far collective responsibility can go! The joy displayed by our fellow neighbors left me feeling content.” Said Morero.

“It taught me that there are people who can go out of their way to impact people’s lives. Therefore I have been inspired to do the same where I can because it has not only resulted in happy people, but has also changed the atmosphere and environment in Kolonyama as a whole!” exclaimed Ponahalo.

“It has instilled in me the fulfillment of sharing and combined effort in achieving. It reminded me of selflessness.” Proclaimed Tumie

“This project has improved the quality of our lives in tremendous ways. One that resonated with me the most is the ease with which girls particularly, are able to collect water in short distances” Added Kekeletso

“It has portrayed to me the extent to which we need each other because without the chief, the Councilor, villagers and most importantly the donors, none of this would have been achieved. We need each other, as everybody has their own role to play” added Nthati.

More than anything, it is undeniable that from this opportunity of taking-forth this project I have learned that leadership is not about just leading, it is about collaboration. This was a lesson demonstrated by our chief, who was not only on the frontlines of

communicating with the people and making sure the project succeeded, but also partaking in the actual working and implementation, which for me showed me a whole other level of leadership.

Initially, there were a total of about 3 water taps spread across the village feeding roughly into 600 households. Through the Go Make a Difference grant we received, we were able to double that. Therefore, water is now collected twice a week from 6 village taps instead of twice a week from 3 taps. If this were business, we would call it a 100% profit. As a team and as a village, we would like to pass our sincere gratitude to the Go Make a Difference grant scheme through which a massive difference and impact has been done on the lives of hundreds of villagers in the Kolonyama community. It has truly allowed us the opportunity to put into practice the UWC ideals, and for that we are thankful. We stand in eternal Gratitude to Colin Habgood and Jill Longson for creating this selfless grant scheme.

If I were to change anything about this process, I would implement the project in a dry season like Winter as opposed to Summer which is a very wet season in Lesotho. The rains significantly delayed the pipe laying process since the long trenches we had dug were soaked in water for weeks. Otherwise, I would implement this project and go over this process with my team for the second or even third time. It has indeed been special and fulfilling. For that, as the Kolonyama Community we stand eternally grateful for this milestone!



(The Team)

