



**Haller – Fondation Eagle Project Update**  
Project Number FF 412/009  
**Community Water Projects/  
Rain-fed Dams and Wells for three communities:**  
Dzanikeni: E39 40.139 S30 58.307  
Jitegemee: E39 40.136 S30 57.181  
Ufanisi: E39 40.139 S30 57.486

In April 2017, Fondation Eagle generously awarded Haller a grant of £56,350 to install rain-fed dams and wells in three communities in Kisauni county, Mombasa, Kenya: Dzanikeni, Jitegemee, Ufanisi. The 2017 East African drought caused adverse challenges for millions of people across the region, and this was felt keenly amongst the subsistence farmers with whom we work.

### **Project Context**

We strongly believe that any farmer can thrive off any piece of land. However, many farmers need support overcoming challenges and learning how to revitalise their land and create a healthy life with it.

For communities who have historically relied upon farming, food security and livelihoods depend on rainfall. The 2017 drought prevented farmers from being able to farm their land drove up the cost of food. The level of child malnutrition rose, and crops failed across the country. In February, the president of Kenya declared a national emergency, with the Red Cross estimating that 2.7 million people faced starvation and requiring humanitarian support.

With the regularity of drought increasing across the region, Haller recognises that long-term solutions are needed to help people thrive despite challenging weather conditions, which is why our work with communities forms an integrated process. In April, Fondation Eagle responded to the urgent need and kindly agreed to fund the provision of three wells for drinking and three rain-fed dams for irrigation for communities in coastal Kenya who had been heavily impacted by the 2017 drought.

### **Project**

Haller's model for community development is based on an integrated model of agricultural training, water provision and health support which offers a cost-effective, sustainable and long-term model for ensuring community development. The first step in our model is creating the infrastructure for water supply after which we can proceed to provide farmer training. We work with a community over the course of several years through our holistic approach until they have attained the skills to thrive without assistance.

Communities typically apply to work with Haller which has an excellent local reputation. At the point when the grant from Eagle was awarded, Haller had 10 new communities who had applied for assistance with water and agricultural projects. From this list, the Dzanikeni, Ufanisi and Jitegemee communities were selected. Each community consists of 800-1000 people and, after the water infrastructure is completed, they will receive a period of organic farmer training.

The work on the rain-fed dam and the wells began in June 2017 to ensure that the projects were completed before the rainy season in autumn. Haller's method of working with communities, is fundamentally based on the notion of working *with* communities. Therefore, the communities were paid to dig the dams themselves, in order to foster a sense of ownership over the infrastructure and provide economic empowerment. The increasing regularity of drought means that these dams were constructed to be deeper, but with a smaller surface area to ensure a reduction in surface water evaporation. This means that the dams are a more reliable source of water for crop irrigation even during times of drought. Additionally, the wells are constructed with a thatched roof, to focus as a community meeting space, in addition to a source of drinking water.

### **Project progress**

At the time of writing, the dams and retreats at all three communities are complete, and are largely full, due to the rains in late September and October. Additionally, the excavation work on the wells at Dzanikeni and Ufanisi is complete, with hand pumps scheduled for installation before the end of November. Thatcher roofs are either installed or in the process of being installed at all three communities.

The well at Dzanikeni is at a depth of 32ft, with 7ft of water, Ufanisi is currently 18ft deep, with 4 ft of water and work is continuing on the excavation of the dam at Jitegemee which is 15ft. Due to the increasingly unpredictable nature of the water table, the depths of the wells constructed by Haller often vary.

The projects have all passed without disruption, other than a very brief hiatus on works during the recent Kenyan election, and the communities have already begun to use the water stored in the dams for irrigation.

As a result of the grant from Fondation Eagle, these communities are already taking their first steps towards sustainability through organic agriculture. Given the recent droughts in Kenya, the installation of water facilities means that these communities will be significantly better-placed to flourish. Whereas before, community members would have had to travel long distances to reach water, they now have access to water in their local area, which has huge benefits for their livelihoods and ability to feed their families. By working with communities to help them gain water security, we can ensure that they have the tools to be the drivers of their own economic development, and can significantly reduce the impact that drought has on people's lives. We look forward to continuing to provide updates on the progress of the projects at Jitegemee, Dzanikeni and Ufanisi.

November 2017

**Ufanisi Community - S030 57' 48.6" E039 40' 13.9"**



*Members of the Ufanisi community.*



*The community constructing the dam.*



*The completed dam, almost full of rain water.*



*Ongoing well excavation work at the Ufanisi community (depth of 10ft).*



*The completed well at Ufanisi.*

**Dzanikeni: S030 58' 30.7" E0390 40' 13.9"**



*Members of the Dzanekeni community.*





*Excavations on the dam at Dzanekekeni.*



*The completed dam.*



*Ongoing excavations of the Dzanekekeni community well.*



*The completed well and shelter at Dzanekekeni.*

**Jitegemee: S030 57' 18.1" E0390 40' 13.6"**



*Members of the Jitegemee community excavate the community dam.*



*The completed dam.*





*Progress at the community well.*



*Construction on the roof of the well  
at Jitegemee.*