

LATAKWEN WATER PROJECT, UPDATE REPORT 2011



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foundation

Even after harsh droughts the Latakwen water project continues to supply clean drinking water to the community.

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Since installing the first Voss Foundation/Milgis Trust water project in Latakwen, the system has worked incredibly well, only the onslaught of drought has caused a lack of water. The drought in mid last year had the biggest effect on the project causing the water level in the well to reduce significantly. To combat this issue the Milgis Trust team along with its water technician removed the pump from the well and dug deeper through the rocky terrain for another five feet. Excavating the well further allowed the pump to access a much more reliable source of water, which now fills the system's 10,000 liter tank in a single day.



Other minor technical issues relating to the system include the breaking of taps and external piping, which needed to be replaced. Most breakages were caused by misuse, but the community is now very much protective over their system and quickly gives fines and warnings to anyone that misuses it.

The community has grown significantly, not just due to the access to clean water but because of the new medical clinic, schools and general security that the area offers. Education and school pass rates are also increasing impressively with the better infrastructure allowing the children of Latakwen access to a better future.

With clean drinking water and improved medical help, the overall health of the area has improved greatly. Common sicknesses related to poor living conditions are now predominantly unobserved, except in people who are not settled in the area. There has been no further record of cholera and even malaria is on the decrease.