



TV

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## UN IN ACTION

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### TANZANIA: THE LONG WALK FOR WATER

#### VIDEO

HERDS OF LIVESTOCK

MAASAI FARMER

DUSTY TERRAIN

ROBERT LENGIMA, VILLAGE ELDER,  
ON CAMERA

HERDING LIVESTOCK

SION WALKING WITH DONKEY

#### AUDIO

##### NARRATION:

The land is dry around Katikati village in Northern Tanzania, and there are very few water sources. For the Maasai communities who live here, this means travelling up to 100 kilometers a day to search for water for themselves and their livestock. They know better than anyone what lack of water means. (17.5)

##### ROBERT LENGIMA: (In Local Dialect) M

*"Our elders used to say that the most important thing of all, more than a death of a human being, is lack of water."* (11)

##### NARRATION:

Exacerbated by climate change, the scarcity of water leads to conflict with neighbouring communities. And combined with cattle theft and the threat of lions, the daily search for water is dangerous. Sion Fupi would travel

eleven hours a day to fetch drinking water for her family. (16)

SION FUPI: (In Local Dialect) F

SION ON CAMERA

*"In those days we were in very big danger. We were going very far to fetch water. At night it was difficult to sleep because we were aching from walking long distances."* (13.5)

NARRATION:

SION AT WATER WELL WITH VILLAGERS

Then two years ago, she found out that there is water 180 metres under her feet. The Tanzanian Government, with support from the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Belgian Fund for Food Security, drilled a borehole here – one of twenty six that have been constructed so far as part of this project. For these fourteen thousand Maasai, and their fifty thousand cows and goats, life has completely changed. (25)

CATTLE DRINKING

ISAYA KIYAMBA: (In Local Dialect) M

ISAYA KIYAMBA, SION'S HUSBAND, ON CAMERA

*"After getting water we are now ok because the children don't go far. They go to school as they're supposed to. Secondly, when the cows go to get water they will all come back because there are no threats anymore."* (16)

NARRATION:

BUILDING HOUSES

With no need to travel to find water, the Maasai here have started to build more permanent houses. (5.5)

CHILDREN IN CLASSROOM

The children attend school and soon a health

centre will open. There have been other changes too. (6)

LENGIMA ON CAMERA

ROBERT LENGIMA: (In Local Dialect) M  
*"Before we were sleeping dirty until the rains came. When it rained, that's when we would wash."* (6.5)

SION WITH HER FAMILY AT HOME

NARRATION:

But now that there is regular access to clean water, health and sanitation has improved and instances of diseases like trachoma have drastically declined. (9)

COMMITTEE

But this water source is still limited. To keep it sustainable, a Water Committee has been set up to schedule and monitor water use. They charge people for water access depending on their number of cattle. This money is used to pay for the pump attendants – trained by the local government to repair and maintain the equipment. According to the project coordinator, Israel Nyarubeli, it is essential that both the Government and the community contribute. (26)

VILLAGE

ISRAEL NYARUBELI, DISTRICT  
PROJECT COORDINATOR

ISRAEL NYARUBELI: (In English) M  
*It's the responsibility of the Government to make sure that its people are well and they are good and they are happy. And the responsibility also of the community to work for their own development. If they work on this partnership they feel that this project is theirs."* (17.5)

VILLAGE WELL

NARRATION:

And the community does indeed feel the project is theirs. In fact they have now raised enough money to drill for a second borehole.

SION WITH HUSBAND AT HOME

But what are the consequences for the Maasai culture when they decide to settle? When asked this, the elders were adamant that they are nomadic only to search for resources. It has nothing to do with being Maasai. (20)

LENGIMA ON CAMERA

ROBERT LENGIMA: (In Local Dialect) M

*"We haven't lost our culture. Our culture's still the same."* (5)

HERDS

NARRATION:

What is a bigger concern, perhaps, is the impact on the natural resources. The Government says their next step will be to work with the Maasai to decrease their number of cattle to ensure that the land can sustain them. (11)

MAASAI DANCING

Meanwhile, for this community, access to water is something to celebrate. (4.5)

UN LOGO

This report was produced by Joanne Levitan for the United Nations. (4.5)