

Improving Access to Safe Drinking Water through Spring Protection

Before

Residents of Lukume location, Malava sub-county were having a challenge getting sufficient water to use in their homes because their only water source Mukhenge Spring was in poor condition resulting in low yield and water quality. The spring water was exposed to sediment pollution and fecal matter making the residents vulnerable to diarrheal disease from the contaminated water.

Intervention

USAID through the Kenya Integrated Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (KIWASH) project supported the following spring protection efforts to ensure community members have sustainable access safe drinking water:

- Rehabilitation works at the spring including construction of a spring box and washing bay
- Fencing and afforestation around the spring area
- Community sensitization on watershed management and conservation of water sources

After

About 300 households are now accessing safe water from the spring including people from the neighbouring village in Bukhakhunga. The protection efforts have also resulted in improved water quality increased the water yield and significantly reduced the time community members spend fetching water.

“It’s fantastic! The water is now very clear and clean. A 20 liter jerrycan now fills up in 20-30 seconds,” says Leah, a village member.

KIWASH is working with the Water Resource Management Authority (WRMA), and the county department of environment and water to promote conservation efforts at the water source and ensure sustainability in water supply for the community.



Mukhenge Spring before KIWASH commenced protection efforts



Clean water flows from the spring after protection