



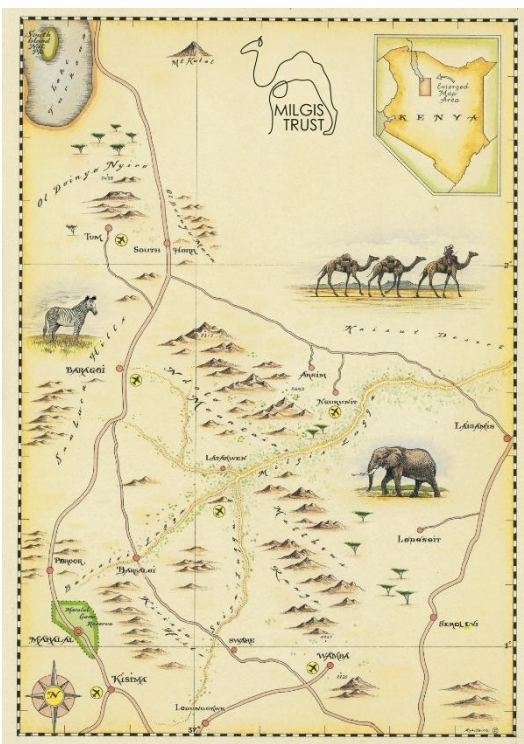
Lene Maria & Milgis Trust Project Report

2012-2025

DATE OF PROJECT	PROJECT LOCATION
2012-2013	MASIKITA
2013-2014	MILGIS SCHOOL & ILGWE ELDOME
2015	LEKERI
2016	MASIKITA SIMITI
2017-2018	LOIKUMKUM
2018	SEREN
2019 & 2023	KELESWA
2020	LMOTI
2020	MATEPES
2021	NESIRAM
2021	KASIPO
2022	MURRAN

Project Beneficiaries

The Milgis Ecosystem covers 6,000 square kilometers in the northern rangelands of the Matthews and Ndoto Mountains, spanning Samburu and parts of Marsabit County. Approximately 15,000, depending on the season, and wildlife benefit from Lene Maria water projects.



Date: 24 February 2025

Signed:

Project Summary

An update on all the Lene Maria projects completed with the Milgis Trust.

It's worth noting that working with pastoralists, 'wild west' characters, corrupt NGOs, and a county government that there has been many ups and downs over the years!

However, together with Lene Maria, the Milgis Trust has done its best to keep all the projects running, ensuring a steady supply of water for the communities.

The question of why so many panels get broken remains difficult to answer. Often, it's due to warriors and children not fully understanding the impact of their actions. Some even think the panels are a source of water!

There's also an element of jealousy involved, which is unfortunate, but we continue to make efforts to explain the importance of these projects.

The aftermath of last year's floods caused significant widening of the luggas, which led to an unexpected challenge ... the increased salinity of our wells has rendered some of the water unfit for use by the local communities ... onwards and upwards!



This is a sample of water taken from one of the wells



Salt oozing out of the rocks on the luggas.

The water project team have been VERY busy throughout providing all the communities with the best possible service along with their help of course!

The water project motorcycle also needed a lot of repairs so was taken to Maralal for a major job...



Water Projects and Community Engagement Updates

1. Masikita (Borehole) (2012-2013)

This incredible project, the first to be supported by Lene Maria, remains as strong as ever.

The borehole continues to thrive, never once failing, and the project is in excellent condition overall, thanks to the ongoing support and maintenance from Milgis. It's wonderful to see how people, animals, and wildlife are all benefiting from this vital resource, with everything continuing to run smoothly and successfully.



2. Ilgwe Eldome (Lene Maria Well) and the School (2013-2014)

After eight years without issues, this project has faced challenges due to well problems. The waters of the Lana Nikan lugga surged, damaging everything in its path. The first well became dangerously close to the river, risking the loss of the pump. In response, the community dug a new well, which was successful until underground salt seeped in, making the water too salty for use.

Ultimately, the community decided to relocate the project. This massive effort involved digging a new well, moving the solar panels, recovering the lining from the old well, and relocating the pipeline. Almost everything has been completed. A metal tank has been placed on top of the hill, and the final step is to extend the water to the school and community outlets

The pictures below show the massive work to move the whole system...





The **Milgis School (2013)** was handed over to the Ilgwe Eldome community in 2015 who chose to ask the county to continue the maintenance of their school.. The school continues to thrive and produce fairly good results.

3. **Lekeri (2015)**

After facing some challenging and unpleasant push-and-pull incidents, Milgis made the difficult decision to withdraw and remove the project. This decision came as a result of interference from the missionary and the community's lack of proper care for the project. In the end, much of what could be salvaged was relocated to Matepes, where it could be better utilised and maintained.

4. **Masikita Simiti (2016)**

Up to last year the community really, really appreciated the project and looked after it well. The county then decided to put in a borehole and a solar installation...and interfered with our project. Then, for some reason, somebody broke some of the solar panels of the Milgis project so we told the community they would have to pay to replace them or we will remove the pump, and up to now they have not paid the money.

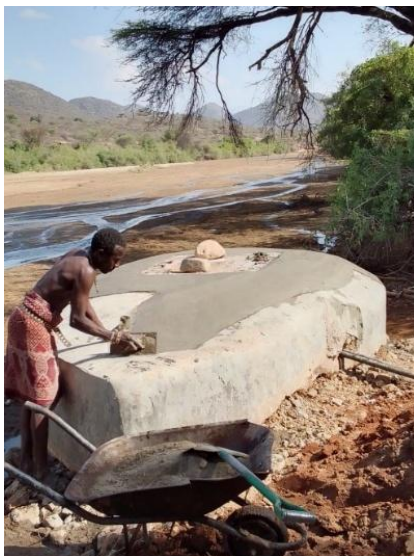
So, last month, we decided to remove the pump from the well, but the women from the community asked us not to take it away. They expressed concern that the county project would not be maintained, and they assured us they would find the funds to replace the Milgis/Lene Maria solar panels ASAP! Their determination to ensure the continued operation of the project is a testament to their commitment to sustaining this vital resource.

5. **Loikumkum (2017-2018)**

This project is very successful .. only the normal maintenance is required.. the only issue is the well concrete cover was damaged after the floods last year, so now this has been repaired !! (see January 2025 work on the next page ...).

Sadly one of the panels has been broken.. The community will have to pay for this!

This was what we had to repair!



6. Seren (2018)

Unfortunately, despite two attempts to provide the community in Seren with a reliable water source by drilling two boreholes, both efforts were unsuccessful. Neither borehole proved to be viable, leaving the community without the water they desperately need.

7. Keleswa Borehole (2019 & 2023)

When the initial 2019 borehole in Keleswa dried up during the drought, Lene Maria/Milgis stepped in and drilled a new one and, in 2023, the Lene Maria team came to bless the new borehole and officially open it! The community has been really involved in ensuring things keep running smoothly. One of the biggest challenges we faced was the water turning red, and the pump malfunctioning. To resolve this, we had to remove 200 meters of pipe from the borehole. We replaced the pump with a refurbished one from Murran, and the technician also had to replace all the gate valves. It's been a difficult journey, but we're making progress and getting things back on track. The community is extremely happy with the improvements, and we now have a very reliable water supply in place!



8. Lmoti (2020)

The community in Lmoti is truly grateful for the support they received in repairing their water tank. This is a particularly arid area with no other water sources nearby, so the people typically have to walk many kilometers to fetch water. However, when it rains, they are fortunate enough to have the luxury of walking just a short distance to the water catchment on the rocks, where they can collect water.

This improvement has made a significant difference in their daily lives, and the community is thankful for the resources and assistance that have helped make this possible.

9. Matepes (2020)

The Matepes community used to collect their water from an extremely dangerous deep well on the side of Matabaua lugga. Every year the well would be destroyed by the floods, and each year they would have to re-dig it .. 20 - 30 feet. Then they decided to try to dig a well outside of the lugga and requested a solar installation from Milgis, we had the opportunity to salvage some of the equipment from Lekeri, The community have never looked back and, aside from normal maintenance here and there, this project works very well.

The community continues to appreciate the help Lene Maria handed them...

10. Nesiram (2021)

The well at Nesiram was a true lifesaver for the community living in Kasipo during the drought, providing a vital source of water when it was most needed. Unfortunately, it eventually dried up as well. When the rains finally arrived, the floods filled the well with debris, making it unusable. However, after three long years, the river began to flow again, bringing a sense of relief to the community.

Thankfully, the people of Kasipo have not had to rely on the well since then. But if another extended dry period occurs, they are ready to re-dig the well, understanding its crucial importance to their survival. The well remains a symbol of hope and resilience, a reminder of how the community has pulled together in times of adversity.

11. Kasipo (2021)

With 32 solar panels in operation, the Kasipo Water Project is performing well overall.

The Milgis took the risk to dig another borehole in Kasipo. This bore hole has remained very successful, it saved the community and many hundreds of people from the desert during the drought, it never dried up...people walked miles and miles to get to water.

Thank goodness for this life saver!! Unfortunately, the pipeline to the lower tanks and desert people was washed out during the floods, so they have to walk quite a bit further to collect water now, but at least they have water! If we can get funding to put a new pipeline this may be a nice idea to help the people...



12. Murran (2021)

The borehole remains shut down after the warriors destroyed the project due to land issues and misinformation. The community was extremely saddened to lose their water project and asked us to return. Unfortunately, the Milgis Trust will never return here due to the complex political situation.

Impact of the Water Projects

Thanks to Lene Maria, The Milgis Trust water projects have provided far-reaching benefits to the communities involved:

- **Improved Access to Clean Water:** The projects have increased access to safe water sources, alleviating the burden of long-distance water collection and reducing reliance on contaminated or salty water.
- **Health Benefits:** Communities have experienced a decrease in waterborne diseases, thanks to the improved water quality provided by solar-powered pumps and wells.
- **Economic Empowerment:** Reliable water access has allowed individuals to redirect their time from water collection to more productive activities, such as farming and animal husbandry.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** The use of solar-powered systems has reduced the environmental impact associated with traditional water sourcing methods, contributing to the conservation of local ecosystems.

Cost Allocation and Financial Requirements

Sustaining and expanding these vital water systems requires continued investment in infrastructure, repairs, and community engagement. Key cost areas include:

- **Solar Panel and Pump Maintenance:** Regular repairs and replacements of panels and pumps ensure the longevity of water systems.
- **Pipeline Expansion and Infrastructure:** Constructing and maintaining pipelines to transport water to remote communities involves significant costs.
- **Community Training and Support:** Ongoing education and training for local community members are essential to ensuring that the projects remain self-sustaining.
- **Operational Costs:** Routine inspections, monitoring, and repairs are necessary to keep the systems operational.

Thank you ... Ashe Oleng!

We are deeply grateful for your unwavering support. Your generosity has been essential to the success of the Milgis Trust water projects.

As a result of your contributions, we have been able to provide sustainable access to clean water, improve health, and support livelihoods in the communities we serve. Your partnership is making a meaningful impact, and we look forward to continuing this important work together for a more sustainable future.

