

# SPRING 2021

# NEWSLETTER



## RAINWATER HARVESTING SYSTEM

## WATER AND SANITATION PROJECT

### KANGUNDO, KENYA

2020 was an incredibly challenging year worldwide but perhaps even more so for the vulnerable communities that KIZIMANI serves in Kenya. For many in the rural community of Kangundo, Kenya, simply sourcing clean drinking water is an untold daily hardship.

In November 2019, Kizimani embarked on Phase 1 of the Water and Sanitation Project to install sustainable rainwater harvesting systems. The goal was to ensure that each family's main hut had a corrugated iron sheet roof with gutters to collect water and a 2000-liter water tank. However, after only 3 such installations, the project ground to a halt due to COVID-19 and the country-wide shutdown. The Kenyan government's stringent travel measures in and

out of Nairobi, the dusk-to-dawn curfew, and the restriction for all non-immediate household gatherings, meant our community workers couldn't travel to Kangundo and continue installations. Ironically, during the shutdown, Kenya received historical levels of rainfall that had not been seen in over fifty years, which was a major missed opportunity.

As soon as travel restrictions were lifted in October 2020, we were able to restart installations and have since installed water systems for 11 households with 9 more to go. In the spring of 2021, we will begin Phase 2 of the project which involves building better pit latrines for these families combatting another daily sanitation issue. We are thrilled that the project

is up and running again because we know that these water and sanitation systems will make a profound difference in the daily lives of the families Kizimani supports.

While the difficult restrictions interrupted our intended workflow, we are grateful to be moving this project forward and anticipate that by the end of June 2021 all 20 families identified for this project, will have a water tank and better sanitation system. We believe that every person should have access to safe drinking water and sanitation. We could not have done it without your generous support.

