

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Thirst is a Lifestyle and Killer in Kenya

By: Lauren Swanson

The villagers of Rendille, Kenya have a thirst for the government to bring the water supply each week, and are overjoyed when they finally see the truck rumbling down the desert dry roads headed their way.

The Kentank that the government provides is just a small amount of water and barely helps the villagers out with all of their needs. This is because water is needed for mostly everything. The villagers hustle to get their weekly amounts of water when the truck arrives and don't waste even a drop.

In the hot Kenyan sun, the villagers work together because they are all in the same water crisis situation, and use buckets or jugs to make a pulley system to make the job go faster as others are walking back to the village with the water for themselves.

This job of filling jugs with water mostly goes out to woman and children as their husbands or the men of the house are off at work trying to make money to support the family in any way they can, even though work there doesn't earn much either.

The whole country is being affected by water because they are all poor

and can't afford to buy water; they each rely on that water tank because it gives them life and keeps them alive.

Abasi Adoyo, the younger boy on the top of the water basin lowering a water jug down, is as used to coming out to fetch water from the Kentank each week as American kids are going to school each morning.; in his family, his mom and him come get water each week and stay home to keep the house in shape and grow a couple crops to sell to get by as their dad goes out to work at a bigger farm and harvests crops that go all around the world for profit as he works usually 14 hour days.

Everyone who lives in Rendille uses water for cooking, cleaning, drinking, and usually doesn't have enough to do all of that because their supply is so limited; especially living in a dry hot place like Kenya, there are not many natural springs or rivers that they can receive other water out of besides the Kentank.

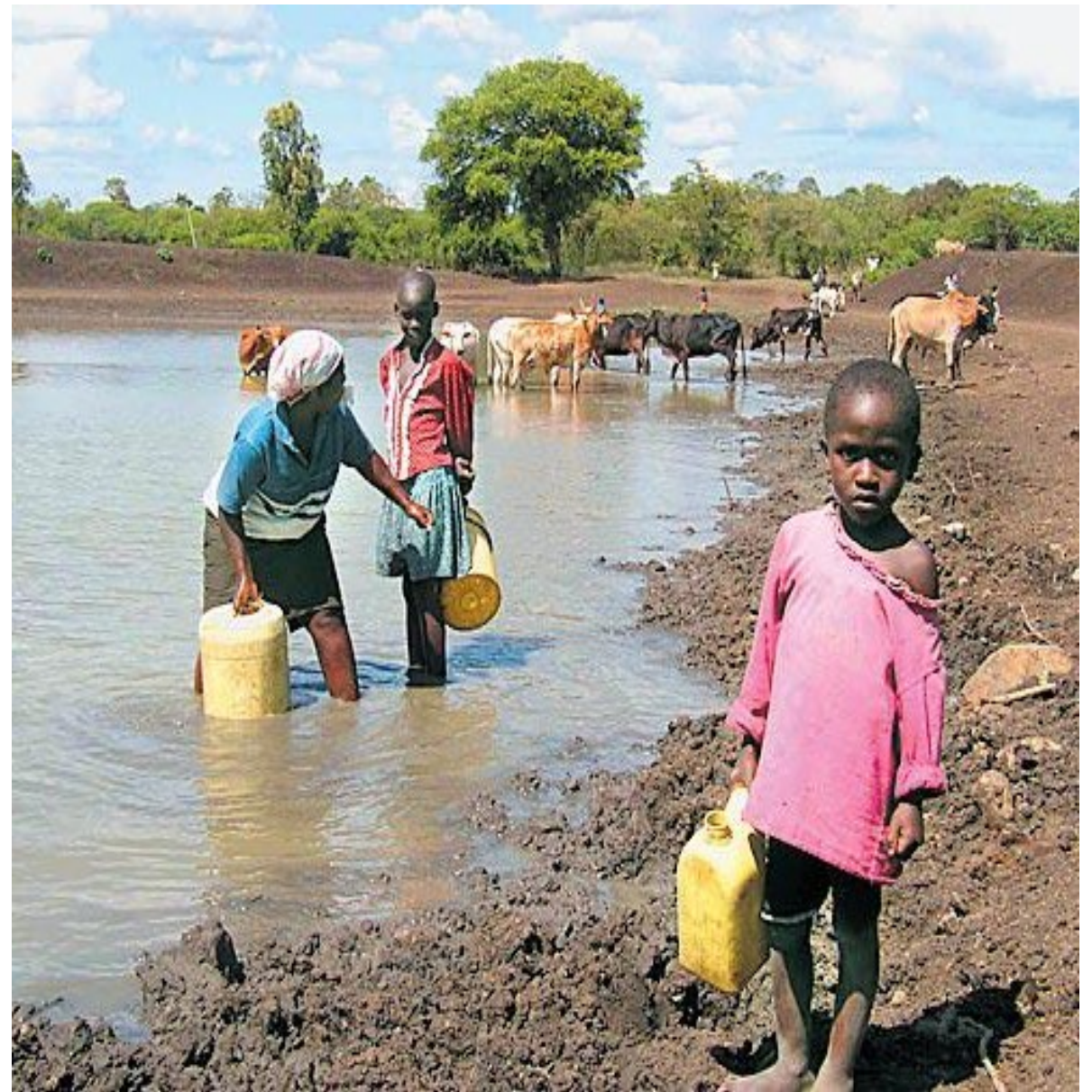
"You're lucky to be alive most of the time. People are dying each day because of dehydration and our government is generous to give their people freshwater but it is never enough. They need to under-

stand the situation we are in and live in it," said Aluna Adoyo, Abasi's mother.

A family friend, Adhra Otieno, stated, "It's so sad not being able to see Abasi going to school unlike the other kids in Rendille who can afford cleaner water. He has to stay back and take care of the house and their lives as people die every day from not using water smart because it is such a need here. I wish things could be different."

According to BBC News, 1.5 million children in Africa die each year because of lack of clean or sanitary water or just lack of water at all; many diseases arise after drinking water that comes from rivers or streams, but people still get water from there because it is all they have and need to live.

Everywhere in Kenya, water is an issue that has not been solved but attempted; people are continuing to die from lack of water, and the continent of Africa has the greatest death rate. So next time you turn on the faucet and let it run, or take an extra-long shower, think of the children and people around the world dying from water or lack of water.



Thirsty children in Kenya help out with their mother as she went to the river to get more water. The water received from the river is not the cleanest and contains bacteria that causes sickness.



Woman in Angola retrieve water from a well source and fill up buckets to the very top and carry them back to their homes on their heads. Two to three trips are made each day in order to have enough water for everything.

Addy Uba's Secret in Angola

By: Sara Fulghum

Sunrise is the start of the day for nineteen-year-old Addy Uba. Uba sleeps on a dirt floor every night, so getting a good night's rest is difficult. A few years ago, Uba found a freshwater source a couple of miles from her hut. The plan was to keep this stream a secret from others.

Clean water has been a need for everyone, due to the outbreaks of diseases. Uba sells bags of water for ten cents a bag, which use to bring her home three dollars a day. Word has gotten out and now she has competition.

"I should have known better, to have gotten up before sunrise. There is a cabin near the stream I go to, and I have never seen sign of life. I was wrong, a man has seen me and caught on to what I am doing, and got the same idea," said Uba.

Uba carries a five gallon jug on her back to the stream, she does not own a pair of shoes so she has to be careful where she walks, the last thing Addy needs is to get injured. Once the jug is filled, she walks back up to her hut and bags the water. She can get about 20 to 25 bags filled from her morning gathering. At seven, she makes her way to the shabby area the Angolans call their downtown.

"The other day when I arrived downtown, I noticed a man with a water jug. He was sell-

ing cups of water for seven cents. When I looked at him, he shot me a snarly look. I knew he had seen me at the stream and is now performing the same thing," said Uba

"I saw Addy walking down to the stream every morning with her large jug, and one day I followed her to town. I connected two and two and figured that I can sell water too. I really am just trying to make a living too," said Bill Gaits.

Due to the cholera breakout in 2006, people are desperate to get clean water. Addy Uba sells all of her water bags before noon. Addy usually goes home with an average of \$2.30 a day.

Most of that money goes towards food, but a little of it she puts aside to go towards a bigger water jug. Now that there is competition, Uba did not even go home with all her bags sold. It is good that clean water is being sold, because so many people are dying from contaminated water.

It is hard to get clean water because families do not have the money to pay for it, and if they do have money they put it towards food or health. Mothers go to local lakes or rivers to get water for their families, but animals fetal will be in there and sometime even human waste.

"I have been buying water from Addy for a few months now, and I do not plan on stopping. She is a kind woman and her prices are decent. I do not know where she finds this water but it is so pure. Now that there is another seller her business is not the same, but she gives me more for what I pay for compared to him," said Grace Brooke.

Uba has been selling bagged water for half a year and business is good. She has this secret fresh water source. Secrets always get out, for the better or for worse. In a way it is good that another person found this water source and is selling the water because the more fresh water available the better. Uba is not losing business too badly, and it is a friendly competition.

"A few days have gone past with me selling my water while Bill is selling water at the same time. We both have good service, and I think we are both warming up to the idea that this is going to turn out okay," said Uba.

Uba and Gaits are just two water sellers in Africa, there are plenty more and all of them have no problem selling fresh water. After all, fresh water is the center of life in Africa and everywhere else in the world.

The Bangladesh Water Crisis



This map above shows that Bangladesh is located in Asia on the right side of India.

By: Emily Woods

Every day you are able to take a shower, go to the bathroom, wash your hands, brush your teeth, have a glass of water. You're used to it, you can have fresh, clean, safe, water in just a simple twist of your wrist. Now imagine you wake up and you're part of the 60% living in Bangladesh that don't have to access to safe drinking water. Your children, brothers, sisters, mother, father, and you are vulnerable to diarrheal disease. The killer of over 100,000 kids under 5 each year.

The country of Bangladesh is located in South Asia. It's official and full name is The People's Republic of Bangladesh. It is surrounded by India, Burma, and the Bay of Bengal. The area of the country is 144,000 square kilome-

ters. The main language is Bangla; English is also very popular though. Their most important rivers are the Padma, Jamuna, Brahmaputra, Madhumati, Surma, Kusiara, and Meghna.

Residents get most of their water from groundwater sources. Water is sold but most of the time it is for an expensive price that most residents of Bangladesh cannot afford. There are around 600 deep tube wells in Dhaka, Bangladesh, the capital. Although there are more private deep tube wells. These wells are the way most Dhaka residents get their water, and the wells get it from groundwater. It has been suggested that there should be an increase in surface water uses.

This country would struggle with physical and economic scarcity. This is because fresh clean water is hard to come by in Bangladesh. So there is a scarcity, and even though private companies sell fresh clean water, most people cannot afford to purchase it. So this is scarcity in both physical, and economic forms.

This is becoming a huge problem because the groundwater the people get their water from is poisoned with arsenic and diarrheal diseases. These cause deaths, diarrheal diseases is the second leading cause for deaths in children under 5 worldwide.

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Water Struggles in Bolivia

By: Lauren Swanson

On average, of the 255,000 infants born each year in Bolivia, 7,000 die in their first month of life, and another 7,000 do not survive their first year. Bolivia is a country landlocked in the heart of South America that struggles with water sources and scarcity. Poverty is almost in all of Bolivia mostly rural areas. The high poverty levels contribute from the water shortages and sanitation that the whole country faces. Bolivia's water supply was sold to a European offer and that caused the price of water to rise when families were already making less than one hundred dollars a month. Bolivia is located in the heart of South America and is the poorest country in the continent. Bolivia is a beautiful country with many mountains

and breathtaking scenery. They are leading producers and exporters in agriculture including coffee, cotton, and tiber. Bolivia has always had some water issue in their country. Water has always been scarce there. The water prices increased when the government sold the water utility and the water prices rose, leaving the people with a choice between food and water. The decision of selling was made by the Bolivian government, in December 1990. Since water there costs money, and money is something they don't have and can't spare, people will find rivers or small water sources that they will take water and use for themselves and living. It is free water that they can get and they need it to survive. Drinking that water is unsafe and not healthy.



Woman in Bolivia carry water back from a source on their heads. They make at least two to three trips a day in order to get enough water for everything they need.

There are many bacteria and chemicals in the water that lead to sicknesses and deaths for many people. About 90 percent of deaths caused by diarrheal diseases and happen to chil-

dren 5 and under. Humans should have the right to clean water, but unfortunately that is not what happened in Bolivia. They have free water that they can get, but it is very unhealthy which is unfair and the people do not feel like their government is supporting them. Water scarcity is not having enough water. Bolivia struggles from many different scarcities in their country not only with water. They are very poor and like the introduction states, some families earn less than one hundred dollars a month. Since the leaders in Bolivia have sold the water company to other owners, the whole economy has been falling as the city people protest in the city and in some rough cases, death has occurred. People are protesting because of the water.

They want cleaner water and they want the prices to go down. The government did not do anything about and let them protest into their police. Currently, some Bolivian people are still struggling with shortage of water just like other countries all over the world. Certain organizations are working with Bolivian villages to support water systems and management water systems in areas. Prices of water have gone down after time. Everyday people need to save themselves from the dirty natural water that is killing children everyday. They need to try to get clean water and make it possible because life depends on it.



Citizens in Bangladesh swarm a government water truck begging for the official to give pour water in their jugs. Water is so scare people are begging and come in hundreds to wait for water.

Flooding Increases as the Thirst Grows In Bangladesh

By: Emily Woods

Two young Bangladeshi boys watch the citizens of Dhaka make their way through the overflow streets. They are perched atop a bus that is a victim of a flooded engine, like many other vehicles on the river-like roads.

This is not out of the ordinary for most citizens of Dhaka, flooding is Asia is now something of a usual occurrence. These swamped streets aren't the biggest of their on growing issues though.

Asia has been struggling with water shortages recently, this causes much more damage than the common flooding.

Flooding may cause wrecked engines to vehicles, drenched homes, lost items, and maybe causality once in a while, but the citizens of Dhaka say they would rather deal with that then the hardship the lack of water brings upon them.

"These people can adapt to the flooding, but no one can adapt to the absence of water," Dhaka resident Trisha Khan. "The water we do have is not enough to sustain our

needs, neither is it healthy to drink or bathe in."

In Asia and the Pacific over 60% of households go without safe, consumable, water. The ridiculous thing is that it only costs \$25 dollars per person to provide access to these accommodations.

"I hear about children dying from the diseases in the water every day, so I hesitate to give my own children this water." Say Sumi Dutt, a concerned Bangladeshi mother. "My oldest has already suffered from a diarrheal disease more than once. The doctors tell us to 'wash our hands' and 'take baths regularly'. How are we expected to do that, when water is so scarce, and it was the water we consumed in the first place the infected us."

"161 million people live in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh. 76 million of these people lack sanitation services, 32 million have no safe source of water. 31.5% of these people live in poverty, and the infant mortality rate is at 5%. In rural areas of Bangladesh, the average of latrine usage is 16%." Says water crisis re-

searcher Ron Huda.

Ron Huda went on to tell us about arsenic exposure in the 1970's. There were 40 million wells in Bangladesh. After the arsenic poisoning emerged they had to close down many of the wells. It was too late as people started to suffer the consequences of the prolonged exposure to arsenic. As a result they began to get skin disorders, cancers, and many other awful diseases. Now with the ground water poisoned, they only had the contaminated surface water. As soon as consumption of these started up again water related diseases spiked and it was back to square one.

People often take for granted the tap water they have, whether it is leaving the sink on while you brush your teeth or staying in the shower for an extra five minutes because they can. Someday they too could be in a position like Trisha Khan, or Sumi Dutt, always wondering when or if they'll ever get clean water.

The Desert of Australia

By: Sara Fulghum

Even though Australia is completely surrounded by water, it is becoming a desert right before our eyes. Australia's rainfall has decreased by 30% in the past decade. The rainfall levels are at their lowest they have been at for the past 117 years. Australia is dealing with physical water scarcity, all the land is drying up. The Murray River is part of a network of waterways that irrigates the south-eastern corner of Australia. The river water is being lost through evaporation. The Murray does not have enough water to support its three states.

Australia has six states/territories and is the only country that is its own continent. Australia's longitude and latitude coordinates are 25.0000° S, 135.0000° E. To the west of the continent is the Indian Ocean and to the south is the Pacific Ocean. Southeast is New Zealand and northwest is Indonesia. Australia has tropical regions in the north and temperate regions in the south. Australia is very arid, 80% of the land has a rainfall less than 23.6 inches per year. In summer, the southern states have temperatures up to 105F but generally between 77F and 91.4F. The land is flat and dry. The largest lakes in Australia are Lake Eyre, Lake Torrens and Lake Gairdner which are all in South Australia. The Murray River is the longest river, combining with the Darling to form the Murray-Darling

basin. The Australian Alps are where Australia's ten highest mountains are located (all within 3.73 miles of each other). The Bungle-Bungles are famous mountain ranges in western Australia..

Water scarcity is the lack of enough water or the lack of access to clean water. There are two types of water scarcity, physical and economic. Physical water scarcity is when there is a place with no water, like a desert. Economic water scarcity is when a region has a water source but the people don't have the money to access it. Australia suffers from physical scarcity because they are a region that is dried up and has no water. Part of the land is a dried up desert and the other half is experiencing flash floods that are washing off the ground dirt, leaving nothing left. Australia has the money provided water, that is, if they had water.

For the past 117 years the rainfall levels have been at the lowest they have ever been at. Over the long term we have about three good years and three bad years out of ten. The strongest fluctuations is the climate phenomenon called the El Niño. The El Niño is a complex interaction between air and sea in the tropical Pacific which controls many of our weather patterns. New research is showing that Australia hasn't even seen the worst of the drought yet.

Since Australia is suffering from drought, it is not the humans fault that the Murray River is drying up, and there is poor irrigation. What can be done, is conserving water. Even using rain water or taking short showers will help conserve the water that is available. If a citizen has a pool they are not allowed to empty it, or fill it up if running low. There are less car washes in Australia than America, because they use so much water. Sprinkling systems and window cleaning are looked down upon because they are wants, not needs. Australia's politicians agreed to a set of principles by which water should be managed throughout the country. The Australians are starting to notice that crops are becoming harder to grow, and are more expensive. Farmers are starting to plant mainly annual crops, such as rice and wheat, instead of perennials like fruit trees or grape vines. If the Murray river does dry up, the four main straws of the river (major cities) will no longer have water and people will be forced to move. Australia potentially could decrease in population rates, and then go bankrupt. Another option is desolation plants, but those cost tons of money and Australia's governments do not want to depend on that option.



Above shows the Murry-Darling basin that was once Australia's heartland of agriculture. It was dried out by deep drought in 2007 and most of the basin dried up but some kept water.