

**Final Report: Meko Maw’o Self-Help Group**  
**Prepared for: The Eifion Trust**  
**Date: August 2018**

**Overview**

The Eifion Trust gave a very generous donation of **£23,593** to Excellent Development in March 2018. This grant was used to support the Meko Maw’o Self-Help Group (SHG), located in Kisaki village, within Kithangaini sub location in Machakos County, to build a Sand Dam and shallow well.

Thanks to your support this community now has an improved source of water closer to home. This report outlines the achievements of this group, and details how your donation has been spent.

**Machakos County**



Living in Machakos County is tough. The majority of the population are rural farmers living below the national poverty line. Climate change leads to frequent droughts and rainfall is erratic.

Despite annual rainfall similar to the UK, rains are concentrated into only one or two short flood periods. Most of the rain runs off bone dry land and disappears into the ocean, taking fertile soil with it. 86% of households have no access to clean water. Water shortage is a serious problem for these communities, as most depend on rain-fed agriculture to survive.

Typically, the nearest water points are a shocking 10km walk away. The burden of collecting water traps people in a vicious cycle of poverty and drudgery – especially women and children who spend on average 6 hours per day collecting water.

During extended droughts, this can take up to 12 hours per day. Children, especially girls, often miss school to help their families collect water. This steals time away from more productive activities like farming and education.”

### Meko Maw'o Self-Help Group (SHG)

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Our strategic partner, the Africa Sand Dam Foundation (ASDF) began supporting the Meko Maw'o SHG in 2016. The group has **25** members (**10** women and **15** men) and a **7**-person strong leadership committee made up of **3** women and **4** men. They originally came together to pool their resources and work together on development projects to improve life for their community.

### Sand Dam Construction

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Your grant supported the Meko Maw'o community to build their first sand dam. These are photos of the dam under construction, with manual labour contributed by the community themselves:



## Completed Sand Dam & Shallow Well

The group completed their sand dam and shallow well in March 2018:



This sand dam will provide the SHG, their families and their wider community with a nearby source of clean water for life. As the sand dam matures over time, more sand will build up behind it which will capture and store rainwater, keeping it safe from evaporation and contamination.

## Feedback from the Community

We recently visited members of Meko Maw'o SHG to find out how the project has impacted them:



The water has been used to establish tree nurseries and engage in farming activities. Pictured here are members of the Meko Maw'o SHG on the farm where they are growing tomato plants.

Jane Wayuu (aged 55) told us: *“I used to drag along my livestock in search of water, right now I walk for a very short distance and my time is not wasted. The water we attain from the shallow well is clean enough for consumption. Earlier on, we used to drink water from the same source as our livestock which had high probabilities of exposing us to diseases such as brucellosis. Presently, we have planted 4000 tree seedlings in a farm that was lent to us by one of the members. As a group we intend to utilize the water by farming vegetables, maize and tomatoes on the farm that has been given to us.”*



Group Secretary Johannes Kaleli (aged 49) told us: *“We have been aided by this water project because our livestock can easily access water, the water acquired from the shallow well is clean. On the land that we were given by one of our members, we planted 60 tomato seedlings, 200 kale seedlings and about 4000 tree seedlings inclusive of grevillea trees, mango trees, acacia and jacaranda tree seedlings. Hopefully, when they grow we will share them among ourselves to plant in our homesteads. This water has been of great help to the community members”,*

## Thank You

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We would like to thank the Eifion Trust for your invaluable contribution to this project. Your support has helped this community make their own way towards water security, so that future generations will not face the same challenges. **Thank You.**

With best wishes,

**Rachel Palmer**

**Trusts & Foundations Fundraising Manager**

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