



Beneficiary highlight: Lagua Jilda, Longua Water Management Committee (WMC) treasurer

KEY IMPACTS

- + Community members trained in sanitation practises and basic preventative maintenance of water points
- + WMC members selected from and accountable to local community, increasing long-term buy-in
- + Funds raised through WMCs spent to maintain and improve water points, sustaining the community's access to safe water supplies

WMCs bring the community together around long term goals relating to water

Lagua Jilda is the Treasurer of a WMC formed and trained just three months ago - and she already has seen the immediate benefit of the group to her local community. While the borehole has existed for some time, it used to run brown and community members couldn't trust it to be safe for use. The water point has since been repaired, and the WMC collects fees from the users of the resource.

Long-term, the fees collected by the WMC will provide for the continuous maintenance of the water point. This serves the dual purpose of reducing unnecessary use of the resource and increasing its long-term functionality. Most impressively, she sees the entire community coming together, paying in willingly, demonstrating that they value the resource.

Lagua (left) explained the enormous amount of progress made by her WMC in three months at the consolidation conference which took place in Torit in September 2019

"From the time we formed the WMC and trained, we have seen a lot of changes. It is now us, in the communities, who are monitoring it, with the elders, with the water users. This involves managing the tools we were given, and maintaining it for future use.

The committee has agreed with the community that we will collect money for three months, then call a meeting and sit with the community to present accountability, and present how much money has been collected. Long-term, we will collect for one year ... then agree with the community how to maintain its value, or perhaps grow the funds, and really manage the money.

Just in three months, we have collected 18,400 SSP!"

Lagua Jilda, Treasurer of the Water Management Committee for the Longoa water point

The water points are fenced in to restrict access, allowing the WMC the ability to exercise oversight over the use of water resources. Below, a hand pump in use at a water point.

