



## PROJECT SUMMARY

### Water protection in Kajiado 2005

#### Background:

Very few people in Kenya have access to clean drinking water. The majority of people have to walk long distances to the nearest water source. Not all water sources are protected and humans and animals share the sources, leaving room for waterborne diseases like cholera, typhoid and diarrhoea to take their toll. Dehydration caused by severe diarrhoea is a major cause of morbidity and mortality among children in Kenya. According to the 2003 Kenya Demographic Health Survey (KDHS), 18% of children drinking water from open water sources had diarrhoea in the two weeks preceding the survey.

#### ICROSS Role:

ICROSS has identified 88 water holes in eight districts being used by nomadic tribes for drinking water. Of the 88 water sources, 74 are severely contaminated with life-threatening bacteria. The local communities have attempted to create separate water reservoirs for livestock to reduce contamination of their drinking water. But wild animals and unattended livestock are still rushing to the water sources to drink, wash and cool themselves down, and in the process, endangering the community. The photographs are taken from Kajiado where most of the water holes that



#### Kajiado Facts

<b>Population</b>	508,758
<b>Population Growth Rate</b>	4.6
<b>Tribe</b>	Maasai
<b>Household Size</b>	4.2
<b>Geographic Area</b>	22,000km <sup>2</sup>
<b>People per km<sup>2</sup></b>	19
<b>HIV/AIDS prevalence</b>	4%
<b>Average Annual Income</b>	US\$ 400
<b>% in Paid Employment</b>	32%
<b>% Below poverty line</b>	39%
<b>Infant mortality</b>	45/1000
<b>Crude birth rate</b>	46.9/1000
<b>Crude death rate</b>	8/1000
<b>Fertility rate</b>	6.3



ICROSS has identified are located. Forty-three of 48 water holes in Kajiado, populated by the nomadic Maasai tribe, are severely contaminated and require immediate fencing. The Maasai in the Kajiado district suffer from frequent droughts. The smaller water holes, which had been fenced off by the Maasai using bushes, dry up quickly.

*Lorngosua water source before being fenced off, humans and livestock sharing water.*



**ICROSS Project:**

ICROSS has received funding from DCI to carry out the protection of water sources in three areas of Kajiado: Norgomut, Singiraini and Lorngosua. In project areas where there only is a single water source, water troughs, as seen on the picture, will ensure that livestock and wild animals get their share of the water without contaminating the rest. The water sources, which have been protected, are carefully selected through consultation with village elders and chiefs. ICROSS trained community health workers in the communities will ensure the up-keeping of the water source, solar disinfection and boiling of water prior consumption. All these measures combined, will result in a decrease of water borne diseases and save lives.

**World Wide**

“Water-related diseases are a growing human tragedy, killing more than 5 million people each year. About 2.3 billion people suffer from diseases linked to dirty water”

“Some 60% of all infant mortality worldwide is linked to infectious and parasitic diseases, most of them water-related”

“Water-borne diseases include cholera, typhoid, bacillary dysentery, polio, meningitis, hepatitis A and E and diarrhoea, among others. These are diseases caused by dirty water, and most can be prevented by treating water before use”

“Every day, diarrhoeal diseases cause some 6,000 deaths, mostly among children under five”

“Diarrhoeal diseases have killed more children in the past ten years than all the people lost to armed conflict since World War II.”



**This project was made possible with the help of:**

