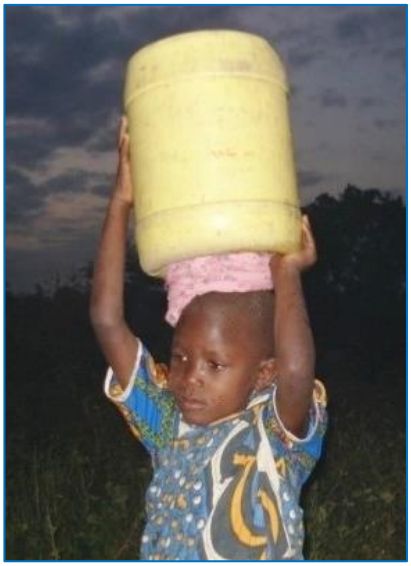
Water Sector Trust Fund
Financing the Water Sector
1st Floor, CIC Plaza I, Mara Road, Upper Hill, Nairobi, Kenya
PO Box 49699 Nairobi-00100; Tel: +254 (20) 2720696, 2729017/8
Email: info@waterfund.go.ke; Website: www.waterfund.go.ke

SITUATION REPORT #195
CSR Special Issue
21st – 25th January 2019

Water Sector Trust Fund's Corporate Social Responsibility in Support of Tatu Kenga

Tatu Kenga came to the limelight in the year 2008 when she was spotted by Hon. Charity Ngilu, the then Minister for Water and Irrigation, who was on an official visit in Kilifi to assess water projects and challenges facing various communities. The sun was setting when the minister's entourage came across a little 6-year-old girl carrying a full 10-litre jerrycan of water on her head, walking all alone at dusk. The Minister was moved by the plight of the young girl.

Given the mandate of WSTF, and after consultation with the Ministry, WSTF agreed to adopt Tatu as the face of WSTF. As part of corporate social responsibility, WSTF took up Tatu's education, signifying giving back to the community through this little girl who had rightly depicted the plight of women, girls and the water underserved areas in Kenya.



Tatu in June 2008 on the evening she was spotted carrying water along the road



Tatu in school uniform ready for secondary school

Education Policy

In order to guarantee Tatu's future in school arranged an education policy in the year 2010 aimed at securing Tatu's education up to university level. An education policy and investment account were opened to the tune of KSh 400,000. The policy was to mature when Tatu attained the age of 16 years when joining Form One under the 8-4-4 education system.

Over the years, WSTF has monitored Tatu's progress in school as well as monitoring the water project built to support the community and ensure access to water.

Joining Secondary School

Tatu undertook her primary school education at Mwijo Primary School located in Mwana Mwinga village in Kaloleni, Kilifi County. In the year 2018, Tatu sat for her Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) and attained 256 out of 500 marks. In line with the Presidential directive of 100% transition to secondary schools for all primary school pupils, Tatu was admitted to Mazeras Girls Memorial Secondary School, a girls' boarding school located in Mazeras town. This was a great achievement for her and family, as out of her 19 siblings she is the only one to have made it to secondary school, mainly due to her family's poverty.



WSTF member of staff (left) presenting Tatu and Mazeras Girls Memorial Secondary School (represented by the Deputy Principal) with a full secondary school scholarship for Tatu Kenga in January 2019

Staff members of WSTF's Corporate Affairs unit travelled to Kilifi County in January 2019 to see the family and ensure that Tatu reports to secondary school. Activities included doing prerequisites of joining secondary school such as taking Tatu for a full medical checkup, buying of school necessities, and not forgetting the family, an assortment of foodstuff and other home essentials were bought.

Continued Support for Tatu

Secondary school is a completely different environment for Tatu and she will need close and constant supervision. Additionally, boarding secondary schools require the students to constantly have various school supplies to ensure that the stay in school is comfortable.

In continued support for Tatu, WSTF through the Corporate Affairs unit commits to the following:

- Before the commencement of each school term, Tatu's back-to-school shopping will be taken care of and the items taken to her to ensure her stay in school is comfortable, which in turn will ensure that she gives all her attention to her education
- Close mentoring especially during school holidays by identified WSTF staff to monitor her school and general life progress
- Engage other staff to support on the aspect of soft costs that go directly to the student and thus cannot be accounted for with receipts by the school. Such include out of pocket allowance to ensure that Tatu has fare to and from school during her mid-term and end of term breaks.

WSTF is keen to ensure that Tatu undertakes her education up to university level and updates on her progress will be made periodically.



Tatu in January 2019

Photo Gallery







Left: Tatu in December 2011. Centre: Tatu is visited by WSTF staff and members of the Board of Trustees together with the headmaster of her primary school in December 2011. Right: Tatu with her mother receiving home essentials for their family in January 2019







Left: The Kenga family in January 2019. Centre: WSTF member of staff having a brief talk with the Kenga family in January 2019. Right: Tatu's family escorting her with her school items as she heads out to report to secondary school in January 2019







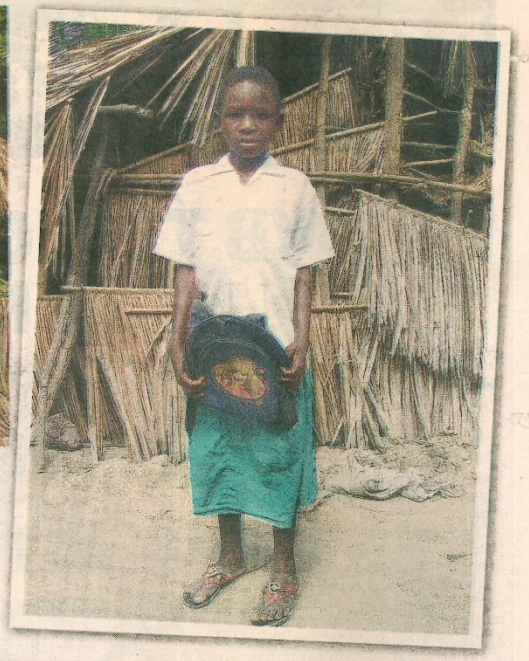
Left: Tatu signing her new school's code of conduct. Centre: Tatu with her mother having a talk. Right: WSTF member of staff giving Tatu advice on her stay in boarding school

Blast from the Past

The newspaper feature below from the local daily *The Star* edition of Friday 13th April 2012 retells Tatu's story on how she was spotted in June 2008 by Hon. Charity Ngilu, the then Water and Irrigation minister. Tatu was walking by the dusty roadside at dusk carrying a 10-litre jerrycan of water on her head, as she was struggling to keep pace with a group of women going home after fetching water five kilometres away.



ROLE MODELS: Tatu Kenga with her visitors (from left), her headmaster Joseph Charo, Sophie Oguna, Jacqueline Musyoki and Grace Mwewa.



BRIGHT: Tatu in her school uniform outside her home at Mwijo village in Kaloleni district.

NGILU'S TOUCH CHANGES KALOLENI GIRL'S LIFE FOREVER

BY MARTIN MWITA

As it dawns at Mwijo village in Kaloleni district, a little girl full of hope wakes up thanking God for a new day.

She is hopeful that this day will bring good tidings, but she wakes up to the harsh reality of her life - biting poverty. Eight-year-old Tatu Kenga gets off the homemade bed without a mattress but only spread with old clothes to give a little comfort, a bed she shares with her mother.

"I share this bed with my daughter Tatu. My husband spends the night in my co-wife's house and we are left here by ourselves," narrates her mother Likasa Chengo when we recently visited their home.

The 17th girl among 20 siblings has always been forlorn as a result of being raised in an extended family that is languishing in poverty.

At 6am, her mother prepares her for school. This involves dressing her up in her torn green skirt and white blouse.

With nothing to eat for breakfast, Tatu picks up her old rucksack and starts the two-kilometre walk to school. Mwijo primary is the only school in the village built by the community.

She arrives at around 7.30am and joins her colleagues at the school parade after which they head to their respective classes.

She sits in class, her belly rumbling making it hard to concentrate. She can't wait for lunch time.

Luckily, the school has a feeding programme where pupils are served 'githeri' - a mixture of maize and beans.

"This region is hunger-stricken. Poverty is also very rampant and most families struggle to put food on the table. Sometimes people depend on relief food to survive but at least here, children are guaranteed a meal once a day," said Joseph Charo, the headmaster of Mwijo Primary School.

Evening comes and Tatu starts her journey back home, pondering the chores awaiting her with the most pressing being fetching water.

She has to walk five kilometres to fetch the precious commodity, but this doesn't deter her as she soldiers on with her daily routine.

A true champion, Tatu is optimistic that she'll rise above her adversity and make something out of her life.

Out of her 19 siblings, none has completed high school and the two most learned in the family dropped out in form two due to lack of school fees.

The headmaster at the local secondary school understood their plight and had allowed them to attend school but immediately after his transfer, the new administrator sent them away.

Since they could not afford fees, they gave up education and went to the city to start new lives where they now work in Mombasa as casual labourers earning so little to support the family.

Mwijo is a village where girls are vulnerable to early marriages.

The illiteracy level is high as parents don't find investing in education as a priority since putting only a meal on the table is a challenge.

"The girl-child in this region is abused and faced with a lot of dangers. The society is not friendly to her but we are working hard to give them the best, model them and make them believe in themselves," said Abubakar Karisa who is in charge of Kaloleni children department.

Back at home,Tatu's father Kenga Lole is not sure where he will get the next meal for his big family. Their small farm does not produce enough to feed the whole family. "I retired from the Kenya Power and Lighting Company many years ago and since then I don't have any source of income to take care of my family. Life is tough," said Kenga sitting under a palm tree.

Tatu's star shone one dusty evening when she was spotted by Water minister Charity Ngilu who was touring projects in Coast province two years ago.

Ngilu was traversing the interior of Kilifi County to oversee water projects.

She spotted a little girl by the dusty roadside at dusk carrying a 10-litre jerrycan of water on her head.

She was struggling to keep pace with a group of women going home after fetching water five kilometres away.

Touched by the scene, Ngilu ordered her driver to stop and went out to talk to the girl who was stumbling to get her balance. That was the turning point of Tatu's life.

Ngilu promised to bring water to her home so that she does not miss school and walk long distances in search of water.

On our visit to Tatu's home, we found a water kiosk right behind their homestead which serves her family and their neighbours.

Twice blessed, Tatu also got a scholarship sponsored by trustees of the Water Services Trust Fund.

"After the minister's encounter with her, we came down to see for ourselves and we were really touched. We have decided to sponsor little Tatu through her education to ensure she gets no hindrance in her studies and also support her family where we can," said WSTF CEO Jacqueline Musyoki.

WSTF has guaranteed Tatu's education up to university level and she will be given some money after completing her college studies.

The trust fund has also ensured availability of clean and safe water in the whole village, ending long journeys by women in search of water.

This has improved health and sanitation in the village, turning lives around in Mwijo where water has been a problem for decades.

Tatu's performance has tremendously improved despite the hostility from some of her siblings who shun her, saying she is being favoured. "My sisters sometimes avoid me saying I get all the attention. The other day one of my step sisters said I am ridiculous. I wish it was one of them getting this attention and I would be in peace and happy," said the shy Tatu.

Last term, she was position two in her class of over 50 pupils with 464 marks. She promises to work hard to achieve her dream of becoming a lawyer.

The trust fund has plans to take her to a good boarding school where she can concentrate on her studies.

"We want her to get quality education in a safe environment to ensure her success and maybe one day she will bring change in the society," said Musyoki.

"I want to be a lawyer and fight for the rights of the deprived in the society," Tatu said.



YOU'LL BE FINE: Tatu with her mother Likasa Chengo.