

We!Connect

JULY 2023 NEWSLETTER



Growing in leaps and bounds!

I take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt appreciation to everyone who actively worked with our WeWater customers during the transition to Mpay. This transition marks a significant milestone for our organization, advancing our digitization efforts and streamlining daily operations at the hubs and in administration. I am thrilled to announce that the transition has been a resounding success, evident from the outstanding sales figures achieved by all hubs. In fact, this July, we accomplished the second-highest sales of safe drinking water in WeTu's history. Congratulations to all for this remarkable achievement!

Moving forward, we are committed to expanding our WeWater project with the installation of additional ATMs in Katito, Sori, and Sindo. By doing so, we aim to strengthen our impact on the communities we serve.

In addition to our WeWater project, I am excited to share that our safe drinking water ATM Project WeTu is participating in two accelerator programs focused on rural water supply, led by prominent players in the water sector. Recently, I had the privilege of attending a one-week boot camp, during which we analyzed the current WeWater project and brainstormed new ideas for further growth.

Starting from September, we will embark on a three-month transition pilot project on household water connections in Sori, which will target a new client group and explore a new revenue stream. The ultimate goal is to achieve self-sustainability within our water vertical, as it is currently cross-subsidized by other revenue streams and donor funding. By scaling our household water connections, we aspire to break even with our water operations and magnify our impact. My vision is to develop WeTu into a significant Water Service Utility, providing piped



water connections with domestic water quality to numerous communities beyond just safe drinking water from our ATMs. I am optimistic that this pilot project will guide our future growth strategy and lead to an even greater impact.

On another note, I'm delighted to announce that the new batch of WeTu lanterns has arrived in the country. Before soon distributing them to the hubs, we will conduct all necessary stock takes in Homa Bay. The lantern business remains our primary focus and vital revenue stream, significantly contributing to our growth and financial stability. My request to all hubs is to prioritize the lantern business once the distribution begins. Moreover, we are actively working on the shipment of battery replacements for NIWA Lago 600 to bring more lanterns back into circulation.

Lastly, I am overjoyed by the progress of our new site in Litare, which will soon open as a new hub site. Thanks to the collective efforts of everyone involved, we are set to commence operations in the next few weeks.

Thank you all for your dedication and hard work. Together, we will continue to make a positive difference in the communities we serve.

Warm regards,

Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tilmann Sraub".

Tilmann Sraub

Launch of our first 3 tap WeWater ATM

Sharon Awuor Otieno

Katito Market in Kisumu County witnessed a momentous occasion on July 5, 2023, as we proudly unveiled our first three WeWater tap ATM, revolutionizing clean water access for the local community and market vendors. This innovative initiative is set to bring about a positive transformation in the lives of the people of Katito, ensuring they have affordable and readily available clean drinking water.

The WeWater tap ATM, strategically installed at Katito Market has the ability to dispense one liter of clean water with just a simple touch. This convenient and hygienic system not only saves time but also provides an affordable option for the community, eliminating the need for costly bottled water. With the launch of our new WeWater ATM at Katito market, we aim to improve access to clean water, reduce waterborne diseases, and promote overall well-being.

Milka Atieno, a market vendor at Katito, expressed her excitement about the WeWater ATM, highlighting the profound impact it will have on the community. She shared her happiness, stating that this innovative solution will significantly reduce the prevalence of waterborne diseases. Furthermore, the availability of affordable clean drinking water will bring newfound convenience and relief to the local residents.

As a social enterprise, WeTu is committed to making clean and safe water accessible and affordable for rural communities across Kenya. The launch of our WeWater 3tap ATM at Katito Market is a testament to this commitment. By providing a sustainable and reliable water solution, we aim to improve the overall quality of life for the community and empower individuals to lead healthier and more productive lives.

Our latest WeWater ATM launch at Katito Market is just one step forward in our mission to create lasting impact. We continue to explore innovative solutions and partnerships to address the water crisis in rural areas. With a focus on sustainability and community engagement, we are dedicated to transforming lives and building a brighter future for all.

As we celebrate this milestone achievement, we recognize the collective efforts that have made this initiative possible. The support and collaboration from our team, partners, the local leaders, and community and market vendors have been invaluable in realizing this vision of improved clean water access.

Together, we are making a difference and creating positive change in the lives of the people of Katito and beyond.

Join us in spreading the word about this remarkable achievement and our ongoing commitment to providing clean and safe water to rural communities in Kenya.

Picture Speak

LAUNCH OF OUR FIRST 3 TAP We!Water ATM



Picture Speak

LAUNCH OF OUR FIRST 3 TAP We!Water ATM



WeTu Team Participates in East Africa Rural Water Accelerator Program;

Sharon Awuor Otieno and Joel Mwando

We are delighted to announce that the WeTu team, led by Joel Mwando and Ronald Amollo, and guided by our esteemed director, Tilmann Straub, is actively participating in the East Africa Rural Water Accelerator Program. This groundbreaking initiative, facilitated by CEWAS, OPERU, WASEU, The Stone Family Foundation, and Aqua for All, aims to revolutionize rural water access in East Africa by supporting promising enterprises in their journey towards investment-readiness.

From July 3rd to July 7th, our team attended the intensive Acceleration Bootcamp, immersing themselves in five days of practical learning, expert guidance, relationship building, and market exploration. The program has been tailored to provide comprehensive business development support to water enterprises, enabling them to become investor-ready, identify crucial business gaps, and scale for long-term sustainability.

As a Kenyan rural social enterprise dedicated to providing safe and clean water solutions to communities in the Lakeside region, we are excited about the opportunities this program offers. We believe that it will significantly enhance our capacity and provide invaluable insights into investor readiness. Moreover, it will enable us to explore key business gaps, develop a robust acceleration program for WeWater, and connect with potential investors who share our vision.

The impact of this accelerator program extends beyond our organization. We were privileged to join other esteemed participants during Cohort 2 of the program, including WASHFIN-Uganda, Norwa Africa-Kenya, Water Kiosk Africa-Kenya, Gosoft-Kenya, Water Quip-Uganda, Sparkles Water-Uganda, and Whave Uganda. This diverse group of organizations represents a collective commitment to driving sustainable change and transforming rural water access across East Africa.

Although the Bootcamp has concluded, our journey with the East Africa Rural Water Accelerator Program is far from over. We are eagerly looking forward to the upcoming online sessions, which will continue to provide us with valuable insights, resources, and connections to accelerate our growth and impact. The guidance and support we receive throughout the program will shape our trajectory and propel us closer to achieving our mission of ensuring access to clean water for all.

We extend our gratitude to CEWAS, OPERU, WASEU, The Stone Family Foundation, and Aqua for All for spearheading this crucial initiative. Their commitment to catalyzing sustainable business models for rural water access is truly commendable. We would also like to express our appreciation to all the experts, mentors, and potential investors who generously shared their knowledge and expertise during the Acceleration Bootcamp.

We invite all our supporters, partners, and well-wishers to join us on this exciting journey. Together, we can transform rural water access, uplift communities, and create a brighter future for East Africa.

Stay tuned for further updates as we continue to make strides in our mission to make safe and clean water solutions accessible and affordable to those in need.

Picture Speak

WETU TEAM PARTICIPATES IN EAST AFRICA RURAL WATER ACCELERATOR PROGRAM



Successful CHV Ewaste Engagement Meeting;

Sharon Awuor Otieno

On 6th July we had the privilege of hosting Community Health Volunteers from Waware North in Rusinga and Mbita Township at Mbita Sub County Hospital where participants were awarded with certificates acknowledging their participation in the 2022 EWaste Management Training. The meeting aimed to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange in the pursuit of Electronic Waste Management.

Lavender Achieng, our electronic waste coordinator and advocate for environmental sustainability, addressed the issue of EWaste. She explained how the improper disposal of EWaste can have consequences, particularly the devastating impact on aquatic life. Lavender urged all CHVs to join forces in spreading awareness about the harmful effects of EWaste on our environment and public health.

The significance of the meeting went beyond raising awareness; it also centered on the sustainability of our project. Lavender emphasized that disposing of EWaste in a responsible manner can be a costly endeavor. Therefore, finding sustainable solutions is vital for the longevity of our initiatives. By managing EWaste effectively, we not only contribute to a cleaner and healthier environment but also ensure the project's viability.

To shed light on the recycling process, she explained that the cost of handling EWaste is determined by various factors, including disposal costs and the recyclability of its components. As part of the process, a functionality test is conducted to evaluate the condition of the items. The findings and the corresponding cost are then shared with the client, ensuring transparency and accountability.

During the meeting, Lavender addressed specific challenges related to EWaste answering the EWaste cost mechanism question, including the reluctance of companies to recycle TV tube plastic. The expense involved in crushing the plastic makes it an unattractive option for many recycling facilities. However, she stressed the importance of finding alternatives and encouraged further exploration of viable solutions to tackle this issue.

The discussion also focused on logistics and creating accessible collection centers. WeTu has taken the initiative to establish a collection center in Mbita town where community members can conveniently deliver their EWaste. To streamline the process, dedicated EWaste collection agents will be responsible for collecting EWaste from CHVs in bulk and transporting it to WeTu. These agents will undergo a rigorous process that includes acquiring licenses and establishing suitable storage facilities.

To ensure the success of EWaste collection efforts, Lavender urged CHVs to mobilize the community and encourage them to participate actively. The CHV meeting with Waware North and Mbita Township CHV's was undoubtedly a significant step forward in our shared journey toward environmental sustainability through electronic waste management. The collaboration between CHVs from different regions showcased the power of knowledge exchange and collective action. As we continue our efforts to raise awareness about EWaste management, let us remember that together, we can make a real difference in preserving our environment and building a healthier future for all.

Picture Speak

SUCCESSFUL CHV EWASTE ENGAGEMENT MEETING



Enhancing Access to Clean and Safe Water in Sori, Sindo and Litare

Eng. Ronald Amolo

We are thrilled to share some exciting updates on our latest WeWater developments. As part of our ongoing commitment to providing clean and safe water to local communities, we have made significant progress in expanding our operations in both Sindo, Sori and Litare. These new initiatives will further our mission of enhancing access to clean and safe water and transforming lives.

In Sori, we are pleased to announce that we have finalized the trenching and laying of the water pipeline, installation of ATM and upcoming of 4 new WeWater points and one WeWater point in a school. This crucial step brings us one step closer to ensuring a reliable and sustainable water supply for the community. The diligent efforts of our team have enabled us to make steady progress in this project, and we are excited to witness the positive impact it will have on the lives of the people in Sori.

Furthermore, we are delighted to inform you that Litare will soon benefit from 3 new WeWater points as the trenching of WeWater pipeline commenced on July 9th. Recognizing the increased demand for clean and safe water in Litare, we have dedicated ourselves to expanding our operations and meeting the needs of the local communities. These additional water points will play a vital role in ensuring that clean water is accessible to all, improving health, hygiene, and overall well-being in the area.

As we move forward with these developments, we remain committed to excellence, sustainability, and community empowerment. It is through the dedication and support of our team that we are able to make these advancements and create lasting change.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to each member of the WeTu team for their hard work, determination, and unwavering commitment to our mission. Together, we are transforming lives and making a positive impact in the communities we serve.

We encourage you to stay tuned for further updates as we progress with the trenching and pipeline laying in Litare, as well as the assembling of towers of the new water points. Your support and continued dedication are invaluable to our success, and we look forward to achieving even greater milestones together.

Empowering Rural Livelihoods: WeTu Supports Kisii Smart Community;

Sharon Awuor Otieno and Tarwish Lemeeh

We are excited to announce our partnership with Kisii Smart Community, an organization dedicated to improving rural livelihoods through innovative and sustainable technologies and business models. As a social enterprise, WeTu is deeply committed to making a positive impact and changing communities' lives through sustainable solutions. Supporting Kisii Smart Community aligns perfectly with our mission and values.

Kisii Smart Community is making a significant difference in and around Kisii County by piloting various initiatives that empower rural communities. Their focus on constructing a hub and implementing operations and management strategies demonstrates their commitment to creating sustainable and impactful change.

At WeTu, we understand the importance of collaboration and working together to maximize our collective impact. By joining forces with Kisii Smart Community, we are pooling our resources, knowledge, and expertise to create even greater opportunities for the communities we serve.

Kisii Smart Community's innovative approach resonates with our own ethos. Through the introduction of sustainable technologies and business models, they are addressing the unique challenges faced by rural communities. By providing access to essential services and creating economic opportunities, they are empowering individuals and transforming livelihoods.

This partnership reinforces our commitment to sustainable development and the pursuit of social and environmental justice. Together with Kisii Smart Community, we will continue to explore and implement solutions that address critical issues such as clean energy, water access, education, and healthcare.

We believe that by combining our efforts, we can create a lasting impact that goes beyond individual projects. Together, we will leverage our collective expertise and resources to bring about positive change, uplift communities, and inspire others to follow a similar path of sustainable development.

We would like to express our gratitude to the team at Kisii Smart Community for their dedication and vision in improving rural livelihoods. We look forward to a fruitful and meaningful partnership that will create a brighter future for the communities we serve.

Stay tuned for more updates on our collaboration with Kisii Smart Community and the incredible work we will accomplish together.

Picture Speak



We Quotes

If u can't be a bridge we mobility to connect people, then don't be a wall to separate them. If u can't be a light we power to brighten people's good deeds then don't be darkness covering their efforts. If u can't be WE water to help people's crops sprout, then don't be a pest destroying their crops. If you can't be a vaccine to give life, don't be a virus to terminate it.

Fredrick Ochieng

Get to Know our Staff

Monica Ombuor

Meet Monica Ombuor, our dedicated Administrative Assistant at WeTu. Joining our team in December 2022, Monica has embarked on an interesting journey, playing a crucial role in ensuring the smooth functioning of our operations.

As an Administrative Assistant, she enjoys the daily interactions she has with her colleagues and external partners. Building relationships and fostering effective communication are aspects of her job that she values the most. Monica works hand in hand with the accounts assistant, collaborating closely to support the overall functioning of the organization.

Her day typically starts at 8:30 AM and ends at 5 PM, where she finds herself immersed in a variety of tasks. From bookkeeping and updating clients' databases to managing financial and personnel records, Monica ensures that our data is accurate and up to date. Additionally, she takes charge of welcoming and providing general support to visitors, submitting timely reports, preparing documents, and assisting her colleagues whenever necessary. Her role also involves managing phone calls and correspondence, organizing travel arrangements, agendas, and appointments, as well as coordinating office operations and activities to ensure efficiency and compliance with company policies. With her meticulous nature, Monica has also developed and maintains a systematic filing system that aids in efficient record-keeping.

What Ms Ombuor particularly appreciates about WeTu is the environment of innovation and the fast-paced nature of the organization. She finds excitement in being part of a team that constantly pushes boundaries and embraces new ideas. Monica's aptitude for numbers and her ability to connect with people easily have contributed to her success in her role as an Administrative Assistant.

Beyond her work, Monica has diverse interests and passions. She loves indulging in a delicious meal of fish, ugali, and dek, savoring the flavors that remind her of home. Additionally, Monica has a love for travel, where she enjoys exploring new places and experiencing different cultures.

Ms Ombuor is an integral member of our WeTu team, consistently demonstrating her dedication and commitment to ensuring the smooth functioning of our organization. Her attention to detail, proficiency with numbers, and ability to build connections with people make her an invaluable asset to our team.

Join us in expressing our appreciation for Monica's outstanding contributions and wishing her continued success in her role at WeTu.





Editorial Team

1. Tilmann Straub
2. Isaack Onyonyi
3. Sharon Otieno
4. Joel Mwando
5. Kevin Asika
6. Eng. Ronald Amolo
7. Tarwish Lameeh
8. Monicah Ombuor