

Excitement in Gajal and Haysam - water will arrive in just a few more weeks

Dear Karimu donors and volunteers,

I have some exciting news!

Karimu's 2018 project to bring clean water to all of Ayalagaya Ward (Gajal, Haysam, and Dareda Kati) is getting into its final stage. Last week the local engineer tested the 10+ km (6.2+ miles) of underground pipes that bring water from the collection tank in the hills to the tank in Gajal and from there to the several water points that provide water to the community. For 3 days, the people of four Gajal villages (who had never had access to clean water) could fetch it from water points in the proximities of their homes. It is impossible to describe in an email the excitement of everyone. However, the picture below does show the importance of what we are addressing. Just look at the amount of people waiting to collect water from one water point. These families will soon be able to walk at most 500m (546 yards) to collect clean water instead of 4 km (2.5 miles) to collect dirty water. I can hardly wait to see the water project fully operational.



I am also thrilled that our engagement with the government is paying off. Last July after meetings with the state government, we obtained their commitment to provide new beds to the Dareda Kati Clinic and to install a door to guarantee the privacy of women in labor. The government kept their commitment, and this is giving us confidence in starting discussions about upgrading the Karimu clinic to a Health Center (i.e., a small hospital).



We are also making significant progress in the construction of student toilets for the middle school in Ayalagaya. The core of the buildings is done, and we have now started to work on the finishing: installation of sanitary fixtures, tiles, painting, etc. (Girls toilet is shown in the picture below.)



Finally, we kicked off the fundraising for the 2019 projects last week. We aim to

- [run a program to keep girls in school](#) across the whole Ward encouraging them to pursue higher education (\$55,430)
- [fully address all education related challenges](#) (expand existing facilities in 2 schools as the number of students more than double, built toilets in the last primary school, rebuild the last two schools, provide books, sports and school material to all schools, kitchens, libraries, and teachers' housing to attract and retain the best teachers) (\$356,000)
- [start addressing the remaining health related needs](#) (construct patient toilets in the clinic, buy medical equipment) (\$40,200)
- provide [micro-loans to all families via savings groups](#) replicating the successful approach previously tested with 150 families (\$69,000 which will enable

every family member of the 23 savings groups to take an average loan of \$100)

I will be coming to you to request your support very soon. If you would like to get ahead, please make a donation at <http://www.karimufoundation.org/> or, if you feel passionate about any of the above topics, click on the link of the campaign above.

With appreciation,
Nelson
Karimu Chief Operating Officer