

Laga Mume Keku Water Project: Jimma Arjo District, Oromia, Ethiopia

Submitted to;

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1. Introduction

The burdens of rural household activities in our country mostly lie on the shoulders of children and women; as a result, women and children living in Hara Keku Kebele travel long distances every day to bring water home for domestic consumption. For this reason, women waste much of their time travelling long distances and that influences the productivity and the well-being of the family. Children also travel long distances to obtain water and cannot regularly attend their school. The Laga Mume Keku spring water was the only available developed spring in 2010 to supply water to the community of the rural villages of Hara Keku. This developed spring served for the past 15 years but was damaged and the masonry now leaks. Due to the leakage the system does not provide sufficient water to the surrounding communities including the communities downstream where women and children need to travel more than 1.1 kilometers to get water from the source of the spring. Thus, it was proposed that Laga Mume Keku spring be rehabilitated. This was to include repairing the spring's cap and to construct a new distribution point at 1.1 kilometers toward the downstream communities where the larger population is located.

The improved development of the Laga Mume Keku water project through a new pipeline and maintenance of the spring cap will provide clean and safe water to the communities using the spring.

2. The Project Description

The Laga Mume Keku spring water has a discharge of one liter-per-second during the driest season of the year and increases in the rainy season. It was developed in 2010 as an on-the-spot spring development having only one water distribution point at the source. However, the largest population of the water users is residing in a downstream direction and these women and children need to travel more than one kilometer to get water from the source. To address this issue, this project proposes that two water distribution points be constructed. The first water distribution point will be constructed at the source of the spring and the second water distribution point with four faucets will be constructed at 1.1 kilometers closer to the main population center.

This proposal focuses on rehabilitating the spring cap; rehabilitating the water distribution point at the spring; providing one clothes washing stand near the source of the spring; and developing a second water distribution point with four faucets at 1.1 kilometers from the source. This project will provide safe and clean water that will enhance the wellbeing and health of our communities.

3. Location of the project

The Laga Mume Keku gravity water project is located at Jimma Arjo District of Hara Keku Kebele in East Wollega Zone at about 65 kilometers south of Nekemte city.

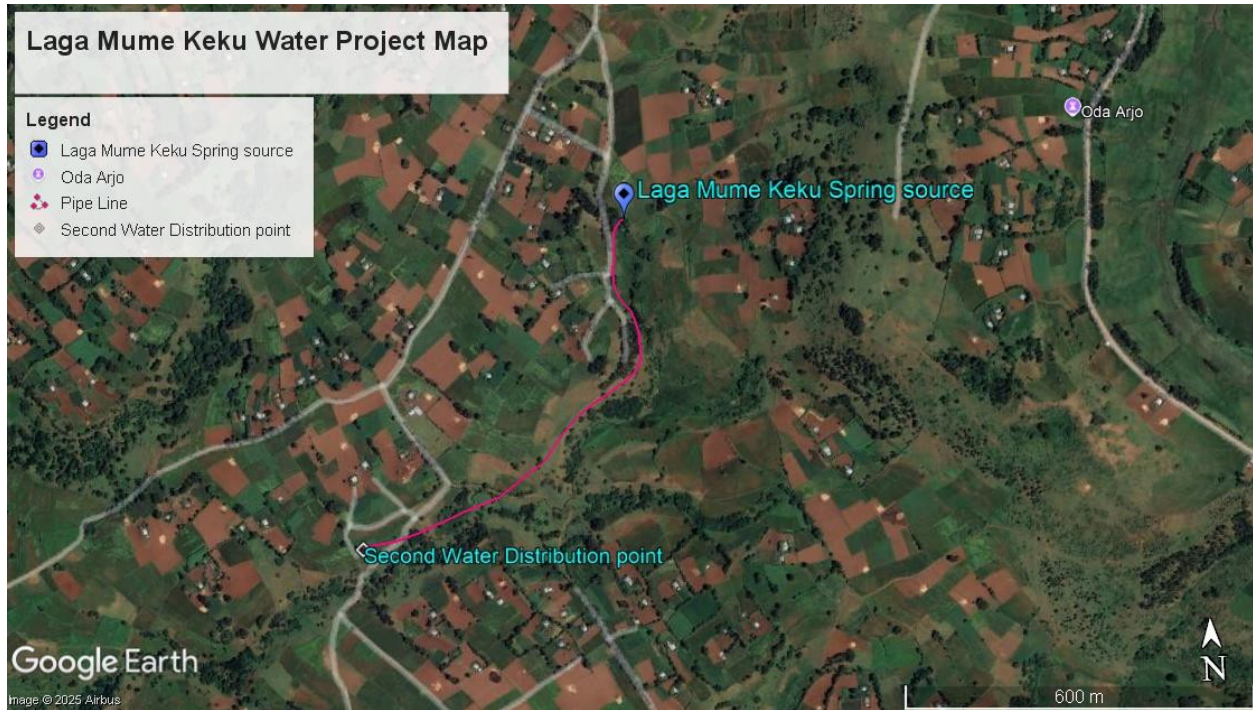


Figure 1: Location of Laga Mume Keku water project (map from Google Earth).



Figure 2: The Laga Mume Keku spring showing water leaking through the masonry. Dr. Fekadu, the project leader, is shown in the picture.



Figure 3: The Current status of Laga Mume Keku spring water

4. Objective

The main objective of the project is to improve access to safe and clean drinking water for rural villages by rehabilitating the spring source and constructing new water distribution points.

5. Beneficiaries from the project

The population of the community that will be benefited from the project is summarized in the following table.

Water Distribution point	Beneficiaries	Remark
At First distribution point	785	
At second distribution point	1277	
Total Population to be benefited from the project	2062	

6. Community and Water Committee Engagements

The community will participate in activities during the project and work on digging the pipeline route and fencing the water distribution point to protect it from both domestic and wild animals. The communities will work through the water committee to ensure the project is sustainable in the long run. The community will own the administration of the project through the water committee to be established, which is accountable to the District Water Resource Office and the local Administration Offices. The water committee to be established consists of seven community leaders, women, and religious persons who will share different responsibilities such as chairperson, secretary, and membership to administer and manage the project after handover.

7. Collaborators

The Zonal and District Administration Offices are key collaborators in linking with lower level local administration to run the project effectively. The District Water Resource Office is the key partner for the success of the project. The Nekemte Rotary Club has the role in supervising all work activities and hosting the budget to be funded for the Laga Mume Keku water project.