

Laga Mume Keku Water Project near Nekemte, Ethiopia

The overall project work is going to be contracted to Mr. Desalegn (local) who has more than 25 years' experience with gravity-water and on-spot spring water development projects in Nekemte and surrounding Districts. He has served the community for 15 to 25 years without any leakage of water. That is why we have been working with Mr. Desalegn since 2021 and witnessed his full expertise in this area for more than five years.

This project work has been categorized into detailed activities with its corresponding estimated cost for each item. All the activities of masonry, concrete work, spring cap (water collection box), water distribution points, and clothes wash stand will be built by Mr. Desalegn with community labor. The pipeline will be installed by an experienced and skilled plumber that will be recruited by Mr. Desalegn and who will work under his supervision with community labor.

The concrete work for the spring cap (water collection box): This is critical work in any spring source development project and the objective is to collect all available discharge of the spring's water flow. There are currently several spring cap leaks that cover a wide area and these need to be eliminated. The overburden must be removed and a concrete footer of not less than 10cm thick ness must be built. Then on top of the concrete footer a spring cap (water collection box) will be built in which all the spring's water will be captured for use by the community.

The four-faucet water distribution point: The construction of water distribution points has two parts. First the overburden must be removed to a thickness for 50cm and for an area of not less than 3mx3m depending on the topography of the land. Then, the concrete base will be built on the space where the overburden was removed. After the concrete base is completed the water distribution (four faucets) structure will be constructed on the base. This water distribution point consists of GS pipe installation to which faucets will be fixed and masonry work completed. The plumber will be recruited by the contractor to install pipe from the spring cap (water collection box) to the four-faucet water distribution point with the use of community labor.

The construction of a clothes washing stand: This requires the removal of overburden to the thickness of not less than 50cm depending on the topography of the land for an area of 1.5mx2m. A concrete base will be constructed where the overburden was removed and the clothes wash stand will be built on the base with the use of community labor.

Supervision of the project will be the responsibility of Dr. Fekadu (Assistant Professor of Geophysics, Wollega University) and one hydraulics professional. The District Water Office also requires that two resource personnel be present during construction.

The project location is 65km from Nekemte and it is necessary to pay for transportation that involves multiple moves of personnel and materials. Transportation is critical for the acquisition of sand, cement, rocks, and the other necessary materials.