

# WELL REPAIR PROJECT



**Location:** Malawi

**Partner:** Sustainable Resources LTD

**Issue Areas:** Extreme Poverty, Natural Disasters, Economic Sustainability

**Points of Interest:** Access to Clean Drinking Water, Contact with Sustainable Resources

## The Organization

The objective of Sustainable Resources LTD is to identify and support industries or projects that provide jobs, education, or basic human needs to those people that are in most need of fundamental support in order to escape the cycle of poverty.

Sustainable Resources recognized that many wells in Malawi could be fixed with a \$5 rubber piece and community effort. Sustainable Resources developed a plan to fix wells and pass on this valuable information to other communities. This successful undertaking gave birth to the idea of a locally owned, locally operated well-repair business. Sustainable Resources strives to identify and support projects that once started can be locally controlled and sustained with whatever resources are readily and locally available. This well-repair industry can continue to thrive without outside funding and support once the initial investment in supplies and training is made.

## Why the Need?

Water is without a doubt the most precious resource in the world; in rural developing areas, residents are entirely dependent on wells for clean water. In Africa, there are several thousand "bore hole" wells drilled to provide fresh water in rural areas. Most of the time, these bore holes are drilled by foreign companies, and there is no reliable service for maintenance and repair when the pumps (inevitably) stop working. Many bore holes need repair within a matter of months after installation, and locals are forced to return to the endless and often fruitless search for potable water.

## How Team Efforts Translate to Impact

Funds NGC teams raise will go towards the operating costs of well repairs. The well repair project is designed to educate communities on how to fix their own broken wells with a few local tools, rope, and an inexpensive rubber part. This project also works towards empowering locals to start their own well repair business.

A well-repair business will be astonishingly easy and inexpensive to create. The supplies and tools necessary to repair these wells can be hauled in a handcart and packed into the typical transportation vehicles available in rural areas. An owner of a well-repair business could conceivably canvas a very large territory and repair several hundred wells every year. The impact this would make on the quality of life for the residents is immeasurable; after all, it is no use to have a bore hole well if it is not operable. And most villages cannot possibly afford a new well every time their well fails, which makes them entirely dependent on the charity of either NGO's or local government to provide a well. This project greatly increases the independence from charity, entrepreneurship, and encouraged a spirit of self-reliance among the recipients of the clean water.

## The Partner

Sustainable Resources LTD provides educational, technical and financial support and resources to business and educational enterprises in developing countries. The objective of Sustainable Resources is to identify and support local industries or projects that provide jobs, education, or basic human needs to people that are in most need. The vision of Sustainable Resources is to be a technical and educational resource, and also to be a source of "seed money" to create and support locally owned/operated sustainable industries and educational centers. Sustainable Resources believes that in order to create effective and long lasting development, they should not be a source of "charitable" donations, but rather, provide start-up assistance for local businesses and industries, and then join the abilities of the recipients to continue to sustain and benefit from each industry after it has been started.

## NGC's Approach to Sustainable Global Change

NGC and our Global Partners believe that people in communities all over the world are the real experts and know their community and solutions to their problems. We want to advocate and educate others on behalf of this model of sustainable global change. Additionally, we seek to empower our grassroots Global Projects with the financial resources to create change at the grassroots level. 100% of funds your team raises are sent to the Well Repair Project.

By sending your team's funds directly, your project organization has the power to decide the best way to use the money. Since money will be spent in the community, your funds will also support the local economy.

The well project works with local communities to help repair their local wells for a very low cost. Because of the well project, they no longer must raise large amounts of money to pay an outside company to drill a well.

## Additional Resources

Partner Website: <http://sustainableltd.org>

CIA World Factbook (Malawi): <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mi.html>

Water wells for Africa: <http://www.waterwellsforafrica.org/theneed.html>

Address of Malawi embassy:  
1029 Vermont Avenue, NW #1000,  
Washington DC 20005  
Telephone: (202) 721-0274

**See your team binder for more ways to educate your team about your project.**