A photograph of a well with a white bucket floating in the water. The well's interior is made of concrete and shows signs of wear and discoloration. The water is dark and still, reflecting the bucket and the surrounding walls. The bucket is tilted, and its reflection is clearly visible in the water below it.

Water in Kambi ya Simba

Created by Awet Secondary students

Thomas Andrea
Selina Mohamed
January Shauri

with Laura Rog, teacher, Albion, NY, USA

Preface

When the American teacher Laura Rog came to visit Kambi ya Simba this summer, she brought a booklet her students had made about water and recycling in Albion, New York, USA. It had pictures and stories about things we have never seen in our life: kitchen sinks, toilets, drinking fountains, even a swimming pool.

We decided to make a booklet with Miss Rog about water in our village. Like most villages in Tanzania, we do not have running water. We fetch water in jugs from pumps scattered across Kambi ya Simba and from the River Seay (it is really a stream). We often walk several kilometres to collect water. The way there is easy. The way back, with a full jug, is hard. Kambi ya Simba is not flat, which means a lot of walking uphill. We then store the water we collect in barrels.

During the wet season, there is plenty of water. In the dry season, especially when there is a drought, our pumps can run empty and the River Seay turns to cracked dirt.

To make this booklet, we spent a day interviewing students at the Kambi ya Simba Primary School and Awet Secondary School, inspecting the River Seay, and visiting homesteads and interviewing families. We snapped pictures along the way.

We hope the day will come when we have running water, too. For now, what you see on these pages is the only life we know!

Thomas Andrea, Selina Mohamed, January Shauri

Awet Secondary School, Kambi ya Simba, Tanzania
August 2008



We start our investigation by setting off down the path to the River Seay (pronounced "Say"). The Seay is our main source of water.



A sisal plant—many grow on the way to the river.



The path is steep
and narrow.





We finally reach the river. In the dry season, the water disappears. After a heavy rain, the water can touch the top of the bank.



There are big rocks in the river. Students often trip or slip on them when getting water.



We use water from the river for cooking, drinking, livestock, cleaning, and agriculture. We put our jugs in the running water until they are full and then carry them back to home or school.



In the 1950's, the British built a dam to catch water from the Seay, but it fell apart some years ago. We need a new dam.



**Climbing the trail back
up...**



and taking a rest.



The building in the distance is the kitchen at Awet Secondary School.



This is a water tank next to the school kitchen.



A plastic pipe leads from the water tank to the faucet.



Underneath this hatch (left) are three pipes that carry water underground to three different locations.



Lunch at Awet Secondary consists of ugali (a porridge made with maize flour) and, sometimes, maharage (beans). Both require water for preparation. The school has two cooks. We line up with our plates and scoop our portion directly from the cooking pot.



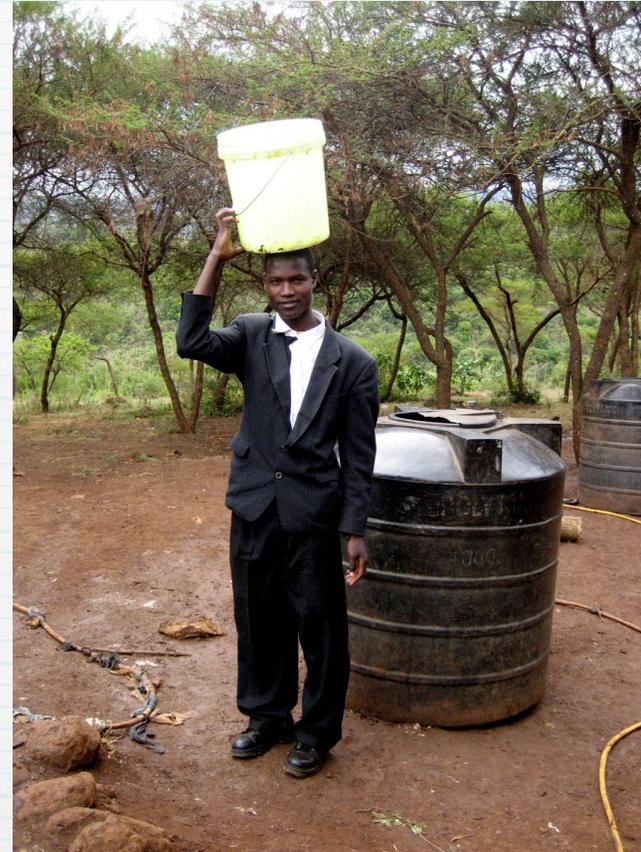


When we are done, we wash our plates and hands in the school water tap.





Students use buckets like these to collect water from the Seay or the closest pump and bring it to school. Many students carry the filled water buckets on their head.





At Awet, students who live too far away to walk to and from school board in dormitories. They use water to clean their rooms and their clothes. They dry their clothes on nearby bushes.



We go visit a family homestead. The woman is the wife of one of the cooks at Awet.



Here she sits with her maize. Every homestead in Kambi ya Simba has a maize pile for food (for livestock and people).



The family water barrel is next to the house. It takes two full barrels per day to meet this household's water needs.



Behind the house, a pig drinks water.



The family garden is larger than most— with a pipe to bring water from the barrel to the soil.



Sugar cane (left) and banana trees (above).



This family shares its water tap with neighbors who come by in search of water.



Thanking the family for allowing us to visit.

We visit another homestead.
The yellow water barrel
catches our eye.



This family uses five tanks of
water per day.



Roosters and cattle get their share of the water.



**Younger
animals
get to
drink
first.**



Heading back to Awet Secondary School.



**"Water team," from left to right:
Thomas, Laura, Selina, January.**



Selina—self-portrait.

Kambi ya Simba Primary School: Water Interview

Questions were asked to students in the last four levels of the primary school. Approximately 90-100 students sat in the general garden and contributed to a general question and answer session regarding water usage in their school. Students also viewed water packets created by high school students in the Albion High School, New York, and were able to see how water is used in a school in the United States.

What do you use water for here at school?

- Watering flowers
- Mopping classrooms
- Drinking
- Watering flowering trees

How does the water get here?

- from the tap
- Go to the river and fetch the water

Who carries the water?

- Students.

How many of you get water?

- Most of the students raised their hand to indicated they fetch water.

How do you get the water to the school?

- Take a bucket and go to the river and bring it back.

How many times a day do you have to go to the river?

- One time a day.

How many liters of water does one class use in a day?

- 100 liters per class per day.

How many students fetch the water when it isn't available at the school tap?

—One to two people per class.

How much do the buckets weigh?

—One bucket of 20 liters is carried by two students.

—It is VERY HEAVY. Students take turns carrying the bucket, and the older students help the younger ones.

When do students get the water?

—They fetch water during free time at school.

How many of you don't mind giving up your free time to get water?

—About three-fourths raised their hand when asked this question.

Do you have any stories to tell about fetching water?

—Sometimes you fall down.

—Sometimes the bucket drops and you need to start over again.

If a new water tank is built, where should it go?

—Close!!!

What would you do during your free time if you didn't have to get water?

—Clean the classrooms.

—Water the flowers and trees.

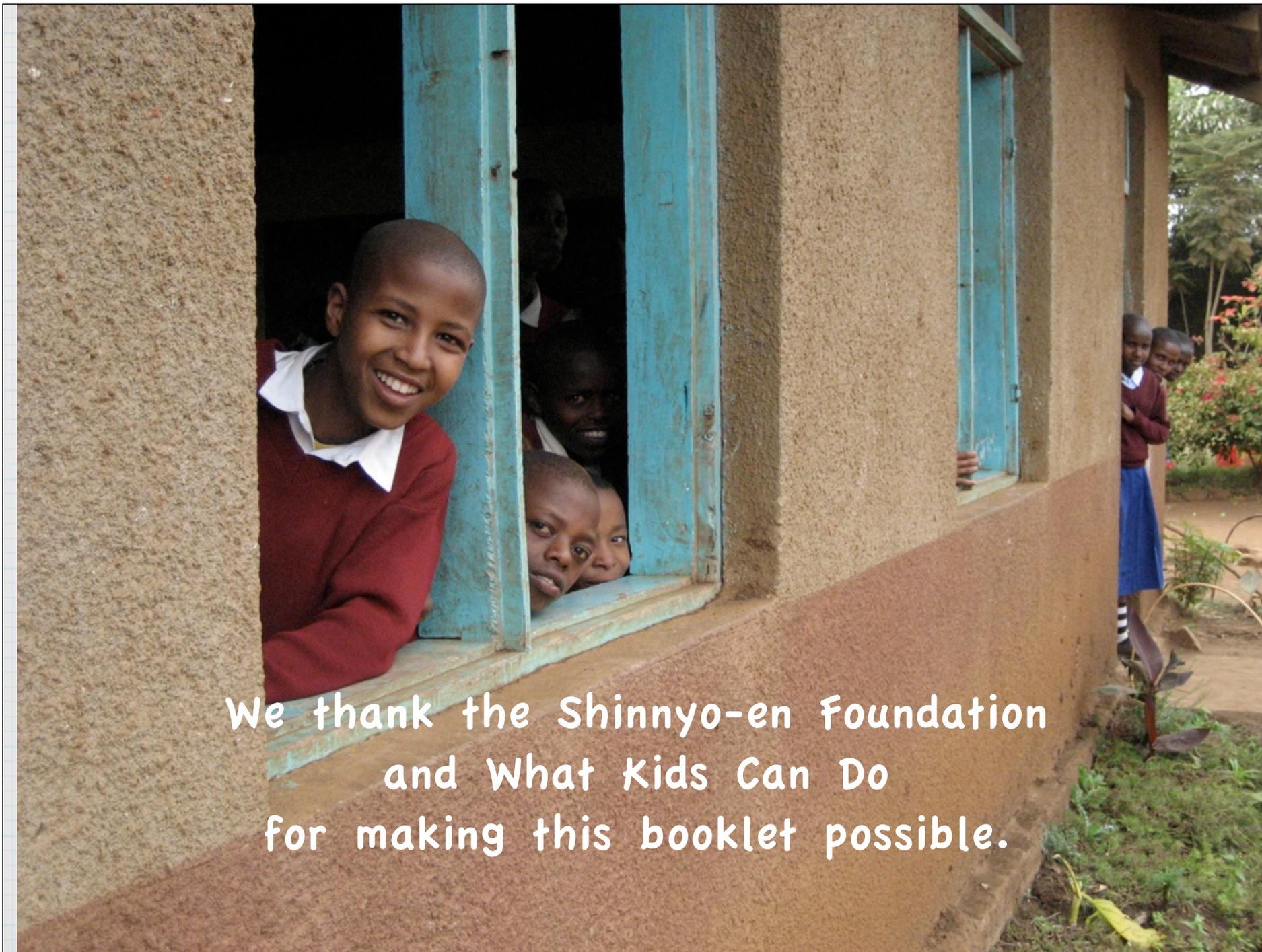
Awet Secondary School: Water Interview

What do you use water for here at school?

- Cooking breakfast and lunch for students
- Cleaning classrooms
- Drinking
- Cleaning clothes (for those students who board at school)
- Cleaning plates after eating.

Tell me about water here at Awet

- Tanks are filled for one day (the water in the tanks lasts 1 day).
- There is a spigot near the cooking area.
- A hose is attached to the spigot to fill up two water tanks in the cooking area
- Sometimes an elephant will disrupt the piping and water cannot get to the spigot. When this happens, students have to go find water. Generally, they go down to the river.
- Students leave class to get water, entire classes go (classes are assigned each day and take turns so no one misses multiple days in a row).
- Approximately 100 students a day fetch water, and each carries 1-2 buckets at a time. They do this one time during the day.
- Students sign out in the book that they are out getting water (I believe they said this book is kept in the administrative offices).
- There are often steep climbs and rocks on the way to the river, students can fall and have to start over.
- Students often cough when they are fetching water because it is so hard.
- Their headmaster is looking for a way to have a closer source of water so students do not have to go all the way to the river when the pipes are broken.



We thank the Shinnyo-en Foundation
and What Kids Can Do
for making this booklet possible.