

Human's Right to Water
Kalamazoo College
Darsalam Amir
Chad
January 17th, 2022

One fateful evening in January, I was following my usual routine of watching at least one documentary or expository video on youtube before heading to bed. Next to my bed was my eco-friendly bottle on my nightstand filled with water to the brim. It was my second bottle of the day, which I intended to finish by the time the credits start to roll. While scrolling through a list of documentaries and videos I saved on my "watch later list", I came across a video titled "Nestle Waters: Big and Controversial". I clicked on the video not knowing what to expect, other than it being controversial. At this point of my life, I was at a stage where nothing on the internet shocks me anymore; until I heard the narrator of the video state that "The CEO of Nestle Says Water is not a Human Right". I was upset; I went down the rabbit hole clicking video after video trying to learn more about the other horrendous things this company has been doing. Later that night, when I reached out to grab my bottle in order to finish my last bit of water; I thought of my people and the refugees who live in Ennedi region; the deserts of Northern Chad.

The last time I heard from these people, the lake that their animals drink from and the few wells they themselves drink from were quickly drying up. My brother had the opportunity to go there in the summer of 2017; when he came back, I asked him about the conditions of our tribe and the surrounding tribes in Ennedi region. keep in mind, this group of people rely on herding and trading animals for livelihood, therefore animals are as important as water for them to survive. During the time my brother spent there, he recalled how water was so scarce that they had to make the choice between themselves and their animals (their livelihood). He was able to show me a bottle of water that people in the Ennedi region drank on a daily basis. The water was brown, mulky, and dirty. I couldn't believe my eyes at the time. I was worried for their health; especially the ladies who walk long hours in the sun to congregate at any of the few wells available for the sole goal of acquiring "water," rather than clean water, I am referring to "water" as a liquid which might appease their thirst. It does not have to be clean, but it should be watery enough to cook with and pass through their gastrointestinal tracts. The ladies in this region are the most vulnerable group. During their pregnancies, more than half of them either miscarry or die during childbirth. Water to the people of Ennedi region is considered to be a luxury. Looking and hearing about their situations; I could not help it but feel bad that I am not even willing to drink water

from my kitchen tab. When I heard how the conditions were getting worse back in 2017 from my brother; I wanted to give a helping hand, but as a sophomore in highschool, I couldn't do anything. All the programs that I looked through for funding required a certain age group or a level of education that I haven't reached yet. Luckily, in the afternoon of the following day that I watched the video "Nestle Water: Big and Controversial", I received notification from Teams about the "Davis Peace project". I clicked on it thinking it was an internship opportunity. I read through the details about the program; at that moment, I knew an opportunity to help my people, the surrounding tribes and the refugees in the Ennedi region had arrived.

There is a saying here in the United States which goes like this; "Cartoons bring children together" and "Football brings men together". Similarly, I would argue that water brings the different tribes in the Ennedi region together. Pipes are still not a thing in this region; therefore people in the community get their water from the few community wells that were installed previously by the Empower Human Needs Board. The wells are the hangout spots for people of the community to get to interact with each other. Getting the funds to Build solar panel wells will not only give the people of Ennedi region the right to a basic human right, but also create a community where its citizens would not have to decide between themselves or their livelihood.

I am very excited to get this opportunity to give the Ennedi people the right to clean water. As soon as I get the funding and summer break begins, I plan to commence my project. I will be collaborating with the Empower Human Needs Board program to facilitate the process. The Empower Human Needs Board has been on a pause for the last couple years due to the lack of fundings. Additionally, this program is run by people I know in that community and they are super excited to work with me. I will be responsible for providing the funds and also working together with them to decide which areas of the Ennedi region would be the best place to place these wells. I also will be overseeing every step of the process to make sure these wells are built the way the locals want. This project to me is successful when I see people around it pumping fresh clean water. As a native speaker of the Ennedi people's language, I would be able to communicate with them, listen to their concerns and opinions. I also belong to the Beri tribe of the Ennedi region which is why I'm always aware of the situations in that region. I am always in contact with the locals there so I'll be continuing to show my support . This collaboration with the Empower Human Needs Board puts me in a spot where I will be receiving progress reports even beyond this coming summer collaboration.

Student Name: Darsalam Amir
 Project Name: Human's Right to Water
 School Name: Kalamazoo College
 Davis Projects for Peace Grant: \$10,000

Student expenses:

If I were to get the funding for my project, I would need about \$1,023 dollars for my round trip from the United States to Chad. After getting to Chad, I will not be needing any more personal expenses. The locals of Ennedi region are very welcoming and plus I belong to one of the tribes there so I wouldn't have to worry about food, lodging and other expenses. If I insist on paying for either food or housing, it will be considered to be disrespectful. As for communication, I have the members of the Empower Human Needs Board to take me around and talk with the locals.

Project Expenses:

As for the remaining \$8,977 dollars, I plan to use them all for the project. As for the staff, the Empower Human Needs Board programs volunteered to provide the staff. They have staff members (volunteers) who specialize in building wells to help with this project. Based on the hourly rate in the country, \$2,000 is more than enough for the staff members. From the remaining \$6,977, six thousand of them will go towards buying equipments. I have already looked into Chad's currency and calculated all the materials needed so \$6,000 is enough for all the materials. Finally, the \$977 dollars will go toward marketing and event support; since I plan to continue this project even after this summer, I will be using the \$977 dollars to buy a digital camera from there to capture reactions from locals as well as images and videos of the wells to inspire our donors to keep doing good actions and to share with others to raise awareness.

Total Funding:

Student Expenses	Description	Amount
Travel (including airfare)	Since the location of my project is outside of the United states, I will be needing to take a plane there.	Approximately \$ 1023 for my round trip.

Project Expenses	Description	Amount
Non-Student Travel and Lodging	N/A	N/A
Equipment and Supplies	I have calculated based on Chad's market price and 6,000 dollars is enough to get us all the materials we need.	\$6,000

Marketing and Event Support	I will be using the \$977 dollars to buy a digital camera from there to capture reactions from locals as well as images and videos of the wells to inspire our donors to keep doing good actions and to share with others to raise awareness.	\$977
TOTAL	\$8,977	

- We would like some more information about the organization Empower Human Needs. In your proposal you mention that its activity has been paused for the last few years. Prior to that, how were they funded? Have they received funding from USAID, Danida, Norad, etc.? Can you direct us to information/documentation about previous projects they have successfully completed and maintained?

I contacted the Empower Human Needs program board and requested documentation; however, because they only speak a spoken language and not a written one, they were unable to send me any paperwork; however, they were able to send me pictures and videos of their work, and in the video, they explain why they are doing what they are doing and what they have accomplished thus far. I haven't yet been able to translate the video, but once I have, I will email you the narrative as well as the images.

- Have you been in conversation with the Beri tribe about this idea?

Yes, I have talked with some of the community leaders and also my father who is actively involved in this community.

What are the plans for continued maintenance and fixing the equipment?

As I stated in my essay, I will continue to play a role in ensuring that the wells are properly maintained. As of now, since my entire family has obtained passports, I want to visit there every summer to see if there are any problems, and if there are, we will be using community donations or financing from well-off members of the community to repair the wells. Another factor is that the residents are really invested in keeping their neighborhood running smoothly, so if a problem arises, either the Empower Human Needs group or I will be contacted right away.

- Are there permits required?

No, a permit is not required. The village in which I intend to install the wells is a very isolated settlement that is arguably considered part of a desert. They are located distant from the city and are subjected to little if any government rules. The elders and community leaders make the majority of the choices in this village. So they have no idea what a permit is.

- Potential supply chain issues? What is the plan for obtaining the needed materials? Potential challenges?

One of the potential supply chain difficulties could be accessibility. Because my target community is located in a remote and secluded location from the city, the roads are not in good condition, which will make transporting products to the village more challenging. For the time being, my intention is to have the materials sent to the village as soon as I receive the funding, so that everything will be ready to begin construction of these wells when I arrive.

- Have you taken any Community and Global Health courses yet? If so, which ones? If not, we strongly recommend taking CGHL 210 this spring, for background context specific to your project and the broader landscape, particularly around the WASH initiatives and the challenges to long-term sustainability.

I haven't taken any community or global health courses, but it is something I plan to do this spring semester!

- Proposal

- What is the timeline for your project? When do you plan to arrive, what role do you specifically plan to play, etc.

As soon as I get the funding, I plan to commence the project. First thing I will do is use the funding to place an order for the materials and have them delivered to the village from the city before I get there. Secondly, I plan to go there myself to hold an in person meeting with the Empower Human Needs program to strategically plan out a schedule. Then, following that, I will go to the community leaders to decide where in the community we should place the wells. One of the main roles I will be playing will be documenting our entire process and keeping track of our progress; since the language spoken among these people is an unwritten language, I will be responsible to make sure we document the entire process or keep it as evidence that we actually were successful in completing the project. Previously, the Empower Human Needs program hasn't been documenting their processes other than taking pictures/videos of their work.

- More details needed about sustainability—ongoing maintenance and repair
- **I'll make sure to assign the community leaders roles to ensure that everything is running smoothly; if maintenance is required, I'll make sure they contact me right away so I can notify my Chadian collaborators (Empower Human Needs); this program has enough funding/donations to ensure that the wells that are built are up and running, so that shouldn't be a difficult task for them since that's what they've done before. I'll also be visiting every summer to assess how things are going, and if more repairs are required, I'll organize a fundraising campaign in the communities to raise enough funding to complete the repairs.**

- Budget

- Please provide more details about the marketing and event you have planned—what costs do you anticipate for that event beyond the camera purchase? How will you be distributing the photos and videos? Do you need to create a website and way to receive and track donations? Does that website already exist? If so, please share it.
- **The website I have in mind hasn't been created yet, but I plan to create that once the project has been completed. I will be using that website to post the outcome of our project and also to bring awareness to such issues. I will also be using this website to receive and track donations. I really don't think there will be any cost beyond the camera purchase; everything else after that is just exposing our project on social media to bring awareness and eventually bringing in donations.**
- Please provide a list of the equipment and supplies needed for the well project, and how you arrived at the price calculations
I have asked the Empower Human Needs program and based on previous work they have done; the estimate given is enough to be able to cover our supplies.
- Please provide more details about the labor for the installation and maintenance of these wells (who will be installing, hourly rate, anticipated time, etc.)

- All this will be discussed with the program that I am collaborating with once I get the funding. But, manpower is the least of my worries. The men in the community have already volunteered to help with the installation, many of them have done it before and are willing to help. On the contrary, the Empower Human Needs program also has volunteers and staff participating in the installation. I plan to pay the staff based on the Chadian currency, which is about 1,229 Cfh an hour which is less than 70 cents if converted to Us dollars. As mentioned above, I plan to finish this project by the time my fall semester classes start.



