

Human's Right to Water  
Chad, Africa  
Kalamazoo College  
Darsalam Amir & Empower Human's Need

### Summary

During the summer of 2022, with assistance from the Davis Peace Project and donation money received by the Empower Human's Need organization, the Empower Human's Need organization and I worked together to install a well in the town of Ennedi, Chad.

### Project Description

There are certain things I have always believed should be rights and not privileges, and water is one of them. It all started when I was watching a YouTube video with an interesting title, "the controversies of Nestle", I clicked on it and immediately not know what to expect. Just couple minutes into the video, I heard the Nestle CEO saying, "water is not a right", I was upset and wanted to do something about it, but was powerless, as if it was a calling, I receive a notification on Teams about the Davis Peace Project and decided to take the opportunity to help others understand that water is their right. To make sure my project went well and successful, I planned all the strategies and challenges we might face ahead of time. I made sure the project would be successful and completed on time. I choose Ennedi, Chad because I also belong to a tribe called the Beri that lives among the others in Ennedi region, I understand the language and the culture of these people, so it was a lot easier talking and listening to their concerns. Since I have left my home country at an early age, I wasn't familiar with a lot of things, but speaking to the locals just helped me understand things better, for instance, the difference in seasons, which is one of the main challenges I had to face. Everything was going according to plan, in mid-June, I have hired the drilling team along with all their drilling equipment on a truck to head from the city to Ennedi, but one of the locals made me realize that it was very dangerous for anyone who isn't familiar with their region to come here during the raining season. Their raining seasons were brutal, since they live in a desert, the rain washes the sand and can cover up anything in sight. So therefore, I had to push back all my plans one step back, including stopping the drilling team from getting there, everything got delayed, but we were able to dig up the well and put in the inner layer, the only thing that's left is putting the pipes and outer layer, which we are still working on and would be completed after the raining season comes to an end, but constantly communicating with my team and locals helped me avoid a lot of challenges I would have created otherwise. Another adjustment I made, was instead of going to Ennedi myself, I had to work remotely with the EHN organization and locals. I went to get my passport but was told to take my citizenship test again due to a mistake from their end. I knew summer was going to end by the time I will be able to get my passport so therefore, I worked remotely through WhatsApp. Fundraising done with the help of Empower Human needs contributed greatly to our project also. They created an online donation website where they received donations. I am still working with the Empower Human's Needs, and I will be continuing to work with them. They are an already established organization, and I am now considered to be one of their partners. I have access to all their website, and they inform me of any changes or project they take on.

### Reflection

To me, peace is about uniting people despite their differences. Due to the wells' popularity as gathering places for the local populace, my project was able to bring the many tribes in the Ennedi region together. In addition to building a community, my effort also helped some of the Ennedi people find mental and physical peace by alleviating some of their concerns. I have come to realize how important it was to plan and strategize ahead of time. Although I was not prepared for the raining season, I was still able to drill the hole for the well via communicating with the locals to know when it's safe to have my team from the city to go in to do some work. We are almost done with the project, as I am writing in this moment, people are fetching water of our well, but we just must wait until the raining season is over to put some final touches. This project just taught me how people view the world differently. Even common words such as "right" are defined differently. This project has challenged me to keep convincing tribes like the Ennedi people across continents to realize that water is not a privilege but a right.

### Personal Statement

"This project offered certain Ennedi people the freedom to not have to choose between their well-being and their means of subsistence, but it also taught and inspired me to challenge other communities like this to recognize the rights that they should have." -- Darsalam Amir