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Drilling Companies and Charities Restore Ethiopian Water Well



Photos courtesy of Design Water Technologies, division of Jet-Lube

U.S. drilling industry members and two Christian charities donated equipment, supplies, and expertise in May to rehabilitate and return a partially blocked primary water well to full capacity in Sendafa, Ethiopia. The well is a primary water source for 15,000 residents.

Living Word Community Church (LWCC) donated \$45,000 to the effort. It was the first environmentally friendly treatment of a mineral-blocked well in Ethiopia—and possibly the first water well rehabilitation project of its kind in Africa—according to Ethiopian officials.

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Well rehabilitation included safely dissolving away accumulated mineral solids and iron-eating bacteria adhering to the screen-style water well's submersible pump and the interior of the pipe. The successful rehabilitation increased the well's output from 32 gallons/minute to 74 gallons/minute—which now eliminates residents' long waits to fill water containers.

LWCC adopted the town in Ethiopia nine years ago and built the \$78,000 water well six years ago to provide more plentiful and safer water.

Jim Honeycutt, volunteer engineer at Water Missions International, coordinated LWCC with Design Water Technologies, a division of Jet-Lube, and David Powell, CWD/PI, president of Edward Powell Pump & Well and the non-profit charity Wells for Relief International.

Jet-Lube and Powell are members of NGWA. Dave Hanson is president of Design Water Technologies and is a past [NGWREF McElhiney Lecturer](#).


Powell donated full consulting services and Design Water Technologies partially donated its non-corrosive and non-toxic Unacid cleaner provided through the South Carolina branch of water/oil drilling wholesaler Drillers Service.

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