

Stories from Lesotho

The source of my water is from a borehole. There are six wells in my village of over 1000 people. The women Boké and children begin very early in the morning getting water for bathing and cooking. Most of the time it is carried on the heads of the women. The children bring wheelbarrows.

MaryAnn Camp
Ha Rantubu, Lesotho

Managing Water

The community has a water supply committee. Recently five of the six wells were broken through carelessness and vandalism. The water committee went to the district water committee and it took three months to repair the wells. The women are the main caretakers of water used in the homes and the men and boys who herd the animals manage the water sources for the animals.

MaryAnn Camp
Ha Rantubu, Lesotho

In families, women control the water as they are the ones fetching it. Most men have very little involvement in day to day running of the household. (Most able men work in the mines in South Africa or anywhere else they can find a job.)

Claire Hilger
Christ the King Mission
Qacha's Nek, Lesotho

In the families it is the responsibility of the women and girls to supply the household with water. Some do have water collection tanks to collect rainwater for their garden and domestic uses, however, this also the responsibility of the women.

Cynthia Holahan
Ha Nkoka, Thaba-Tseka District, Lesotho

Collecting water is usually the responsibility of the children in the family. Many girls will carry buckets of water on their heads. They have such good balance that they can walk one-two miles and not splash any of it! Boys will also collect water if they are not herding the animals. But they don't carry the buckets on their heads. They will use a wheelbarrow. They will also sometimes give each other rides in the wheelbarrows for fun! Using the water for cooking and washing is always the responsibility of the women and girls. On Saturdays the women and girls will gather at the river and help each other wash their clothes.

Becki Krieg
Qacha's Nek, Lesotho

There is a village water committee. They are in charge of the well and someone holds a key to our village well—she opens and closes it (locks it) daily. It is important to lock it up because at night everyone would steal it. In families Bo'Me (women) fetch water, sometimes children do too. Men hardly ever get water.

JeanMarie Mitchell
Ha Tebelo, Lesotho

The farmers in Lesotho depend entirely on natural rain for their crops to grow. In my village there is one farmer who received foreign aid to set up some irrigation pipes. He is very lucky. However, he is only one farmer out of many in this country who have no irrigation. Also, his farmland is very small. To add to his difficulties, he has very little money to maintain his new irrigation system. If anything breaks, he does not have the money to repair it now.

Becki Krieg
Qacha's Nek, Lesotho