**2016 Drilling Update**

**Completed:** During 1st Quarter 2016, Aqua-Africa drilled and installed four new hand pump water wells in the villages of Ofiri, Aru Junction, Lirya Center, and Nyeli; all in Central Equatoria State South Sudan. The wells were drilled to a depth of 80 to 90 meters and will provide clean drinking water to nearly 2,000 South Sudanese living in these communities. Many thanks to In-County Director, Beatrice Safari Karlo for overseeing these installations, for helping the communities elect well committees, and for training them on maintenance procedures. Thanks also to our partners at Ruaha Drilling Company who completed the construction efforts.

**Planned:** Situated on top of a hill, Nimule Hospital, and the surrounding community of Malakia re in desperate need of better access to clean water. As the only hospital in a town of 45,000, limited access to clean water poses a threat to healthcare delivery. Hospital patients and residents of Malakia are forced to share one hand pump well meant for 250 people. “I don’t mind waiting for hours”, says Diana Lehala, a widowed mother of four. “It’s being turned away that’s heartbreaking.” Women like Mrs. Lehala claim that, on average, they are forced to spend four to five hours a day collecting and transporting water.

On March 15, Aqua-Africa in partnership with Save the Children, Empower Kids and Omaha engineering firm Lamp, Rynearson & Associates concluded its feasibility study to explore the possibility of constructing a water distribution system, Village Supplier, to meet the needs of Nimule Hospital and surrounding communities. Upon approval, construction is expected to begin late October. The distribution system is expected to produce 80,000 liters of clean drinking water to 3,500 people a day. “The completion of this project will mean that Mrs. Lehala will never leave her house not knowing if she will come back home with water”, says Buey Tut.