Dear World Connect,

On behalf of Engineers Without Borders USA (EWB-USA), I highly recommend the EWB-USA Georgia Tech Chapter to receive funding from World Connect. As the Program Engineer that works alongside the EWB-GT chapter, I have witnessed firsthand this chapter’s commitment to bringing clean water to the community of Oloo, Uganda. I have worked with this chapter for two years and am continually impressed by their professionalism and dedication.

EWB-USA partners with communities and local NGO’s around the world to deliver sustainable solutions to meet basic human needs. We do this through thousands of volunteers who make a minimum five year commitment to their partner community. The volunteers partner with communities to identify needs, evaluate options for infrastructure improvements, train and equip local leaders to maintain the system, and make sure that the community has the capacity to oversee the long-term operation of the project.

Desperate for aid, the leaders in Oloo, Uganda contacted EWB-USA in the fall of 2011 with the help of a local NGO, A River Blue. The EWB-USA Georgia Tech Chapter (EWB-GT) began working with the community of Oloo in 2012 and continue their partnership today.

Initially the community had two borehole wells and 20 unprotected springs. During the dry-season, many community members would be forced to utilize these unprotected springs as their main source for water which would frequently lead to waterborne illnesses. Initial discussions with the community determined that their two largest concerns were malnutrition and malaria; however, after an initial assessment trip EWB-GT found that the overall health of the community could be greatly improved by providing access to clean water as all of the unprotected springs tested positive for coliform bacteria.

In December 2014, EWB-GT and the community of Oloo agreed upon a four phase project and began construction of Phase I-- a deep borehole well equipped with an India Mark II hand pump. EWB-GT trained three community members to perform periodic maintenance on the system. After the onset of the project, the community organized itself into three elected water boards, each representing a sector of Oloo that collects fees to pay for the operation and maintenance of the system. Since then, two additional construction phases have been completed including the installation of a solar powered submersible pump and a 10,000 L storage tank that distributes water to a tap stand nearby. Throughout this expansion the community has continued to display leadership in the decision making process and we have provided the community with a 40 year budget plan to maximize the life of the project.

With the success of the partnership so far and the demonstration that the community is equipped to manage the maintenance and operation tasks, EWB-GT and the community water board have decided it is time to expand the system and distribute the water to a series of tap stands throughout the community.

Support from World Connect would help to continue this sustainable community-led project. Your funding would help provide support for the purchase of key materials needed to deliver water to families in the community. This would shorten the time women spend collecting water, providing them the opportunity to focus on improving their education or starting a small business.

Thank you for the opportunity to share the work our dedicated volunteers from Georgia Tech are undertaking in Uganda. If you have any questions I can answer, please don’t hesitate to contact me at **eric.lundborg@ewb-usa.org**.

Sincerely,

Eric Lundborg, PE

Program Engineer (Eastern Africa)

Engineers Without Borders USA  
  
P.S. In 2017, EWB-USA featured the EWB-GT / Oloo partnership in our Year-end Campaign. Attached is one of our fundraising emails featuring the project in Oloo.

