

# TAKING CARE OF OUR SPRINGS

## Community Participation in Water Supply and Sanitation



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# TAKING CARE OF OUR SPRINGS

Educational Series Number One

## Community Participation in Water Supply and Sanitation



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*received from  
Mrs. Mary Owar*



# Introduction

During the past military troubles in Uganda, projects to improve water were stopped for about eight years. Protected Springs and Pumps broke down and there was no programme to repair them. Many people went back to streams and rivers to collect water for their needs. But these water sources were usually very contaminated which led to outbreaks of typhoid, dysentery and other water carried disease. Sometimes medicines were used to combat these diseases, but this did not stop the problem because the people were still using contaminated water.

After the Liberation War, UNICEF (The United Nations Children's Fund) joined with the new government of Uganda to improve the people's water supplies. This was to be done through a cooperative effort to provide sources of clean, safe water. One of these sources is Protected Springs.

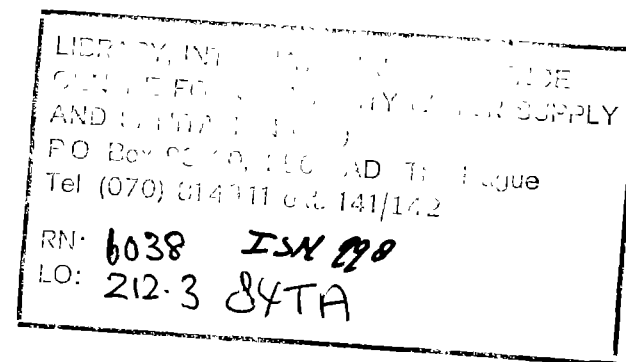
In Kabale, the project was started with a survey by the District Medical Team. They found 900 springs which needed repair or new protection. 150 of these springs have already been protected and 50 more will be finished soon. Community involvement in the programme has been very successful. The people in Kabale were willing to assist the programme because they know that contaminated water can be the cause of disease outbreaks.

To help other communities understand the need for clean water sources and how to get them, UNICEF is

assisting the Government of Uganda to produce a series of educational materials.

This book, called "Taking Care of Our Springs" is the first in the series. They are to be used by Health Workers and others to explain the programme, educate communities and show them how to participate in building and maintaining clean water supplies for themselves.

If the project is successful, communities will be encouraged to work with the programme to create and maintain their own sources of clean, safe water. Water supplies will be protected, and outbreaks of water carried disease will be stopped. This will help in our goal to have Health For All Ugandans By The Year 2000.



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The Ministry of Health, and  
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# Chapter One

"We Are Not Happy With The Condition  
of Our Springs."







This man is collecting water from an unprotected spring. We say the spring is unprotected because people can stand right in the water they collect, which contaminates the water. Contaminated water can cause diseases. The spring is also unprotected because people can put dirty water containers right in the water they collect, and this can also contaminate it.



An Unprotected Spring.





This spring is covered with bush and grass. Bush and grass can cause contaminated water to stand at the spring. When water from the spring cannot wash away it can become contaminated.

Bushy Surroundings at the Spring.





This spring is unprotected from cattle grazing and drinking. Cattle can clog up the spring by knocking dirt and grass into the drainage area. Cattle can damage delivery pipes, spring floors and steps.

Animals Graze and Drink at the Spring.





This boy is collecting water from a spring with a clogged drain. When the drain is clogged the water stands and cannot wash away. Standing water becomes contaminated when people step in it and put containers in it.

Clogged Drains with Standing Water.







This woman is washing herself at the spring. When people wash at the spring, they can make the spring area dirty and muddy.

Bathing Around the Spring.





This spring has damaged retaining walls. This means that the walls of the spring have broken apart and cannot hold clean spring water. The water will not come out of the delivery pipe but will leak from the bottom and become standing water. Standing water is easy to contaminate.

Damaged Retaining Walls.





This spring has a damaged delivery pipe. Damaged delivery pipes make it hard for people to collect clean water. If people cannot collect clean water from the pipe, they will not use the spring, or they will make standing water so they can collect it. Standing water is easy to contaminate.

Damaged Delivery Pipes.



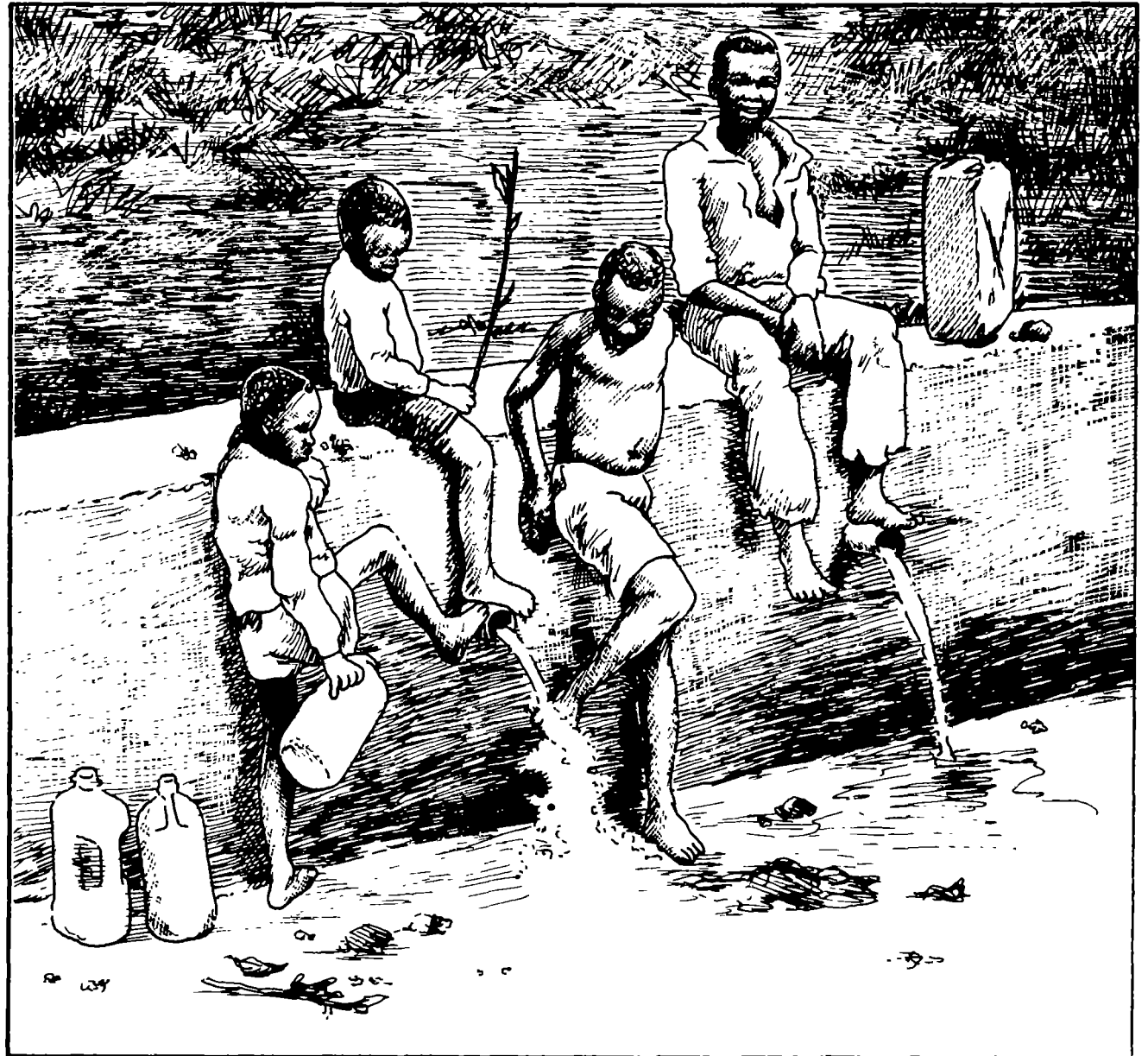


This boy is washing his clothes at the spring. When people wash around the spring they can make the spring area dirty.

Washing Clothes at the Spring.







These children are playing around the spring. This can make the area dirty. Children could also damage delivery pipes when playing on them.

Children Playing At the Spring.

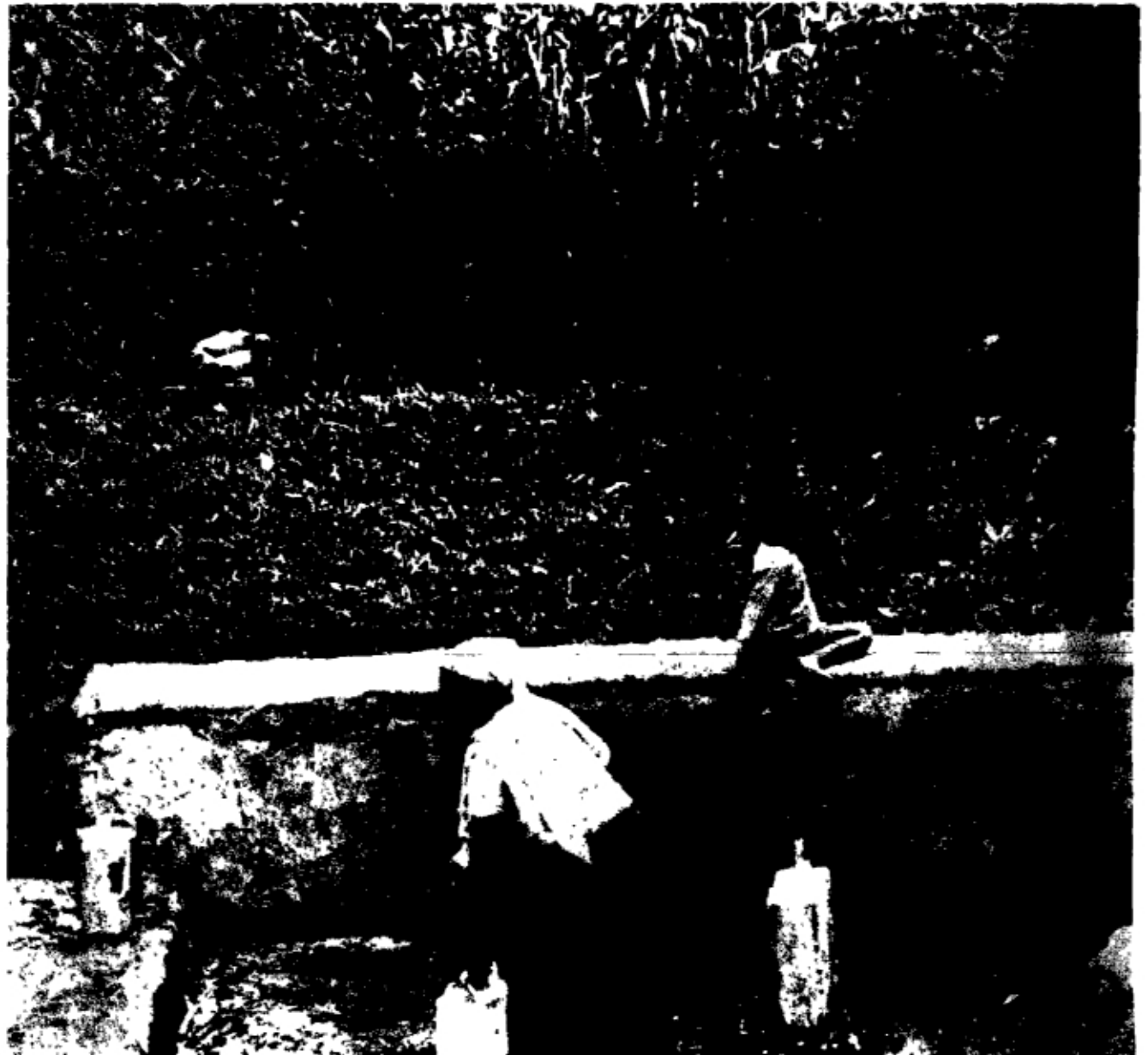




This boy is clogging a delivery pipe. Clogging the delivery pipe can make the water dirty or damage the spring.

Children Clogging the Delivery Pipes.





One boy in the picture is defecating above the spring. Human faeces can spread disease through water. Faeces can contaminate the spring when it washes into the ground. It can also make the spring area dirty and have a bad smell.

Children Defecating Near the Spring.





One boy in the picture is urinating above the spring. Urine can spread disease through water. Urine can contaminate the water inside the spring when it goes into the ground. It can also make the spring area dirty and have a bad smell.

Children Urinating Near the Spring.





# Chapter Two

"What Can We, The Community Do To Help  
Protect Our Springs?"







This woman is washing clothes away from the Protected Spring. She is throwing dirty water away from the stream. Her dirty water will not get into the spring so that the water stays clean.

People do Washing Away from the Spring.





The Chief talks to other officials of the community. They talk about what the community can do to help protect the spring. They make plans as to where and how they will get the materials they need to build the Protected Spring. They form a committee and decide to work together to build their own Protected Spring.

A Committee is Formed.





The community has decided that  
it wants a clean source of safe water.  
They take their tools and go together  
to clear the site of the spring.  
Clearing the site of the spring is a  
way that the community can participate  
in making Protected Springs.

The Site of the Spring is Cleared.







The people collect stones and sand. These will be used to make the walls, steps and floor of the protected Spring. Collecting stones and sand is a way that the community can participate in making Protected Springs.

Stones and Sand are Collected.

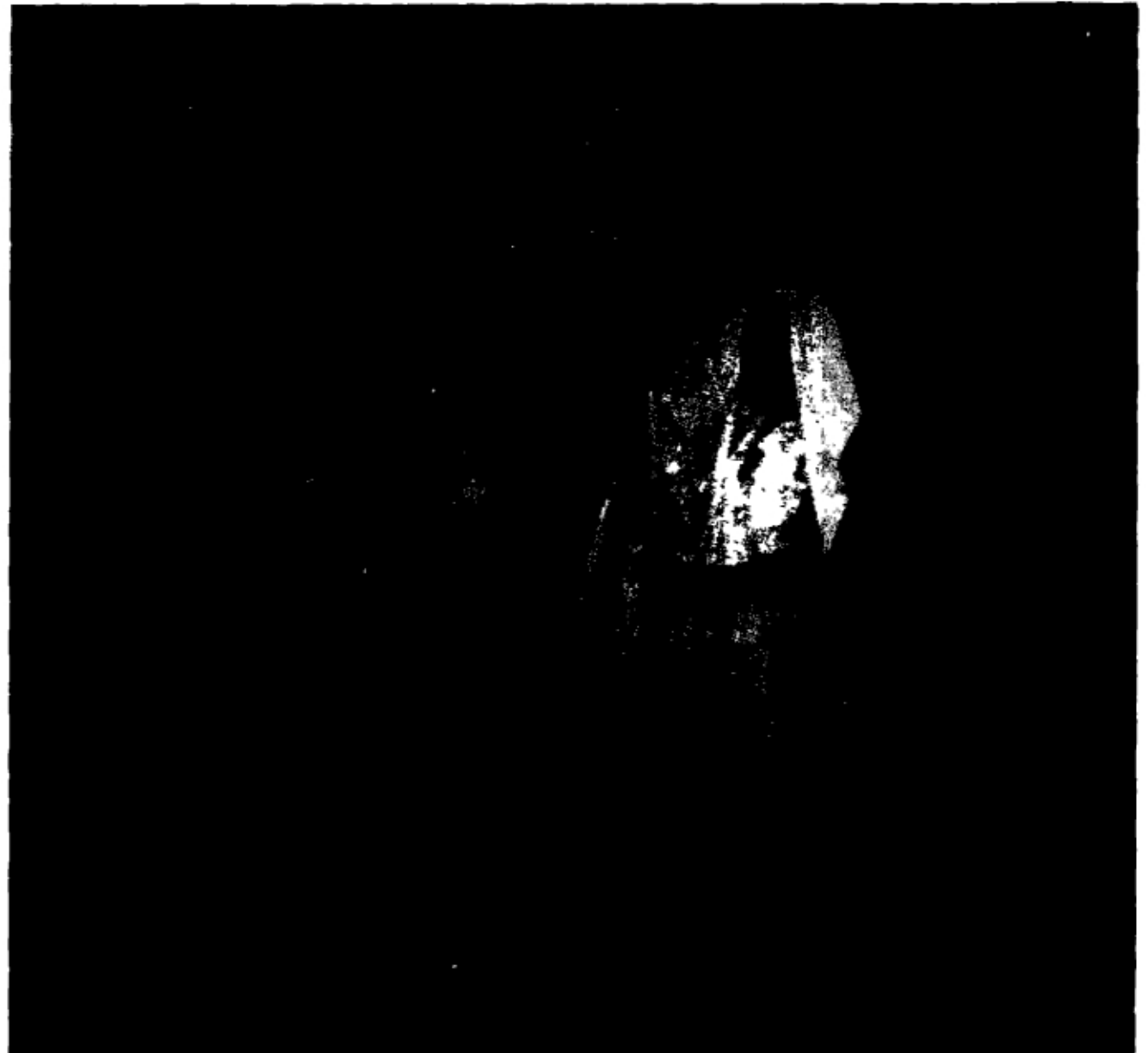




The people dig a drainage area. The drainage area allows the water to run way from the spring and keeps the spring from being contaminated. Digging the drainage area is a way that the community can participate in making Protected Springs.

A Drainage Area is Dug.





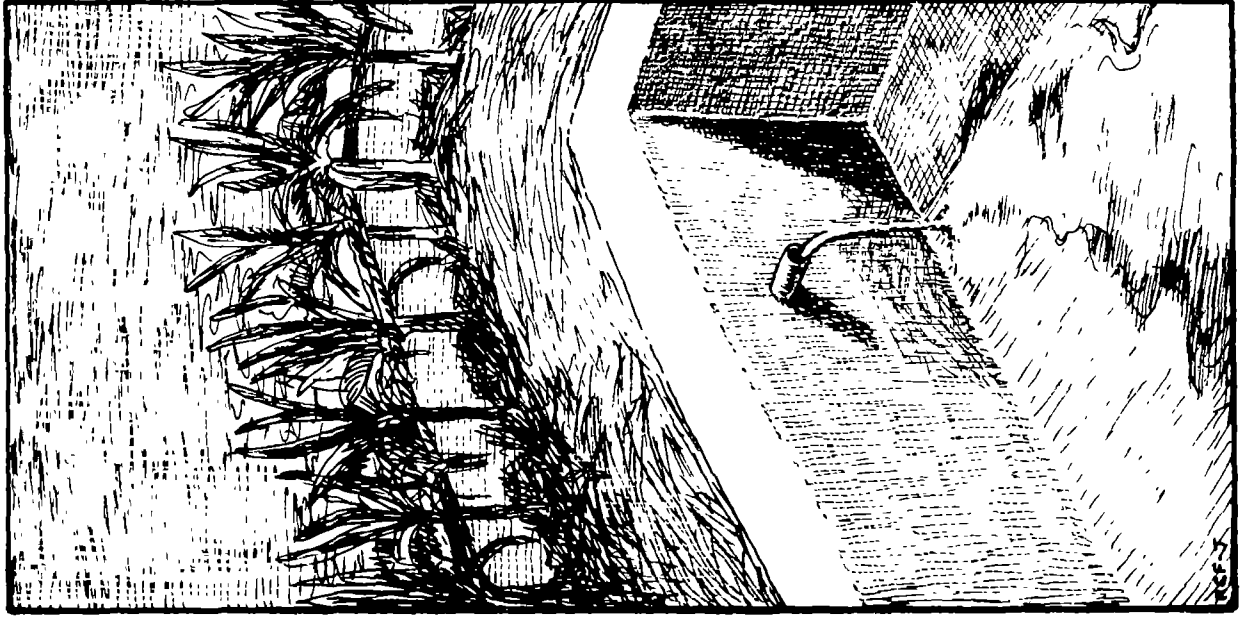
The people help the fundi build the Protected Spring. The fundi shows the people what to do to build a source of clean, safe water. The Health Inspector in the County also knows about spring protection. He will help to train the people in ways to protect their spring.

The Community Helps the Fundi to Protect the Spring.



# Chapter Three

"How Can We Build A Protected Spring?"









The man in the picture is pointing to the eye of the spring. This is the place where clean water comes out of the ground. The eye of the spring needs to be protected from contamination.

Find the eye of the Spring.





The fundi is building a retaining wall with bricks and cement. This wall will hold in the clean water that comes from the eye of the spring.

Build Retaining Walls.





The fundi is putting a delivery pipe into the retaining wall. The clean water comes from the eye of the spring, collects behind the retaining wall and then pours out through the delivery pipe.

Put in Delivery Pipes.





The fundi is building side walls to help make the retaining wall strong. Strong walls are needed to hold alot of clean water and they can protect the eye of the spring for a long time.

Build Supporting Side Walls.







The fundi is building steps at the front of the Protected Spring. Steps are needed to keep the dirt on the side of the spring from falling down when people come to collect water.

Construct Steps.





Now the fundi builds a platform at the end of the stairs under the delivery pipe. This is the place where people will put their containers to collect water. It must be strong and allow water to run into the drainage area. This is so water will not stand and become contaminated.

Build A Platform.





This is a finished, Protected Spring with strong walls, steps and platform. The delivery pipes are in good condition, there is good drainage and the area is kept clean. The people in the community who use this spring will be healthier because they have a source of clean, safe water.

A Finished, Protected Spring.



# Chapter Four

"Now That Our Spring Is Protected, How Do We Maintain It?"









This is a well maintained, protected Spring. The community keeps the area around the spring clean and swept. The wall, steps and delivery pipes are maintained in good condition. The water stays clean and safe.

A Well Maintained Protected Spring.

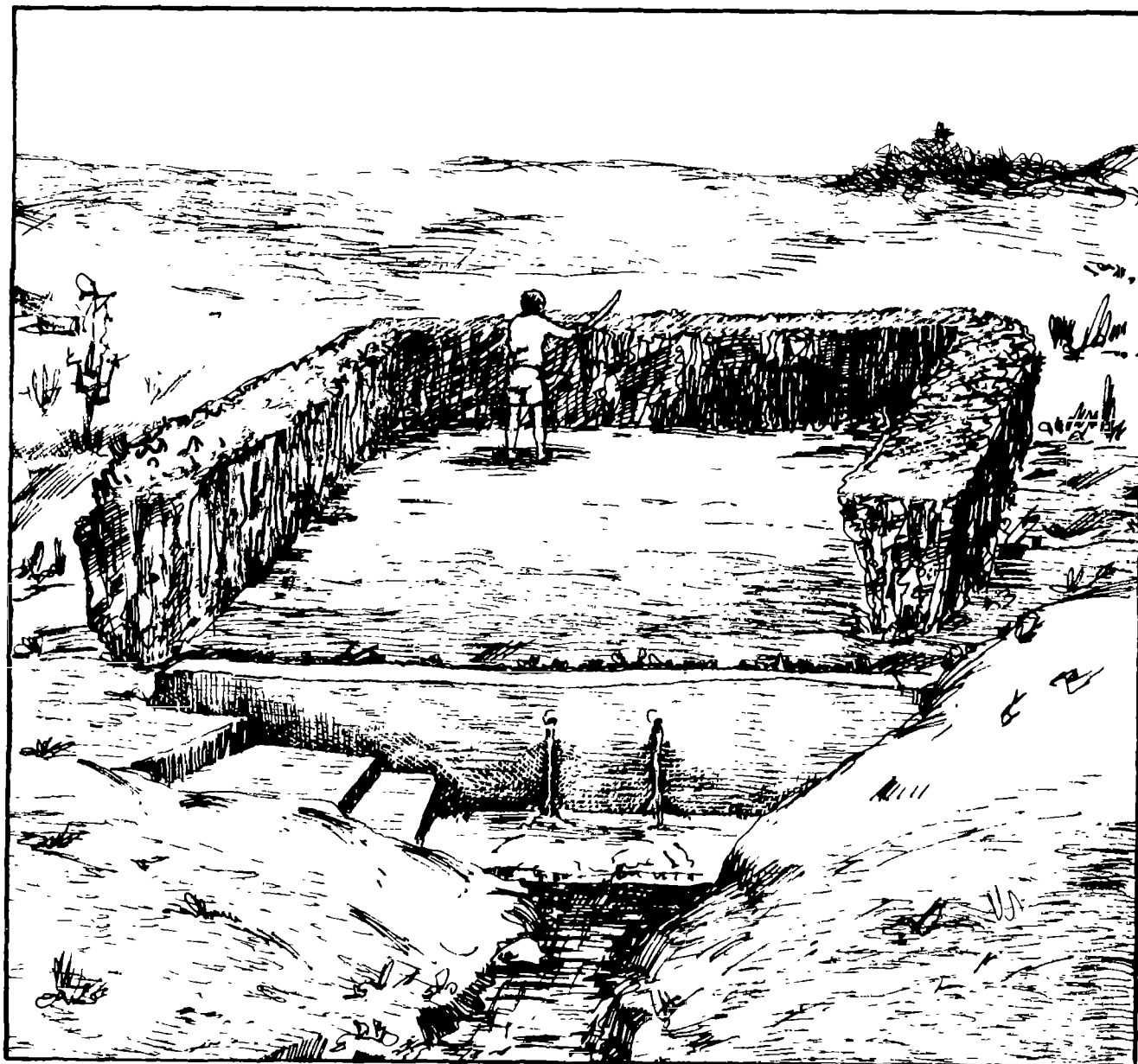


The people of the community cut the grass around the spring and keep it short. They cut the grass every two weeks or whenever it starts to get high. They do this so that the area around the spring will be clean and the drainage area will not get clogged.



The Grass is Cut.





The Caretaker keeps the fence trimmed and repaired so that it will be strong enough to keep animals away from the Protected Spring.

The Fence is Kept Trim.



The Caretaker sweeps the floor of the Protected Spring. The Caretaker sweeps the floor once a week but if very many people use the Protected Spring he may need to sweep every day. This keeps the spring clean and stops dirt, leaves and grass from collecting and clogging the drainage area.



The Spring Is Kept Clean and Swept.







Children are not allowed to play at the spring so that it will stay clean. Children are taught that the spring is a place to collect clean water, not a place to play. Children do not urinate or defecate in the area near the spring so the water will not become contaminated.

Children Do Not Play at the Spring.





This man is protecting the spring by chasing away animals. This keeps the area clean and also stops the animals from clogging the drainage area and from damaging the delivery pipes, steps and floor.

Animals are Kept Away from the Spring.



This man is the Chief of his area. He knows from the Health Inspector of the County that the water from his people's spring is not protected. When water is not protected it can become contaminated and spread disease.



The Chief Is Worried About His People's Water.





These people are bathing down stream and away from the Protected Spring area. Their dirty water will not get into the spring so that the water stays clean.

People Take Their Baths Away from the Spring.







This man is clearing dirty, sticks, grass and leaves from the drainage area. He cleans the drainage area once a week, or whenever the area starts to get clogged. This keeps the area clear so that water can run away from the spring.

The Drains are Kept Clear and Unclogged.





This man is helping his community keep the Protected Spring in good condition. He sees that the wall or delivery pipe are damaged and reports it to the person who is responsible for repairs. When damage is reported correctly it can be repaired quickly and the Protected Spring will keep giving safe water.

Spring Damage Is Reported to the Proper Authority.





The people of the community are happy with their Protected Spring. They keep it clean, clear of dirt and in good condition. It gives them as much clean, safe water as they need and keeps them healthy by stopping water carried disease.

The Community is Happy with Its Spring.





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