



Amman Imman WATER IS LIFE

Bringing water and hope to those who have none

“Amman Imman” means “water is life” in Tamachek, the language of the Tuareg people.

Where is the Azawak?

- The Azawak Valley is a region roughly the size of Florida, located on the edge of the Sahara desert, in the countries of Niger and Mali.
- It is home to about 500,000 people, mostly pastoral nomads. The main ethnic groups are the Tuareg and Woodabe Fulani.



What is happening there?

- At one time, the Azawak was some of the best grazing land in Africa. Over the past several years, the rainy season has shortened from about 5 months a year to as little as 1.5 months a year.
- During the rainy season, people drink marsh water that they share with their animals. When these marshes dry up, the people must dig for more water.
- Few roads or schools exist in rural Azawak, and the nearest health centers are a two-day donkey ride away. There are so few wells in this region and they are so far apart that people need to walk up to 30 miles round trip to reach water. Often, children must travel these distances. The water they reach is dirty, and never enough.
- The water table in the Azawak is much deeper than in other parts of Africa – between 600 and 3,000 feet below the surface. To get this far down, expensive drilling equipment is required.
- The people in the Azawak are dying of thirst. One out of every two children dies before the age of five – 25% of these from dehydration. Without water to drink, bathe, cook, clean, water crops, or give to animals, these people cannot survive.
- Almost no organizations or government agencies work to help this region solve their water problem

How does Amman Imman help?

- *Amman Imman* builds borehole wells that reach the clean, pure water deep in the ground. Water is pumped from the ground up through faucets on the surface. Because the water is so far down, one borehole well costs about \$175,000.
- Each borehole well taps live aquifers and provides water for as many as 25,000 people and animals.
- We work with local people to set up management committees and teach the men and women how to maintain their borehole well. With the proper maintenance, a borehole well can last 50 years or more.
- We go back to check on the borehole wells that we build and talk to people in the community about ways to improve them.
- In the United States and abroad, *Amman Imman* works with schools, communities, and individuals to bring the story of the Azawak to light and raise funds to help the people there.

What can you do?

- **Join Amman Imman** Visit our website to learn more about the people of the Azawak and to sign up for news and updates. Read our blogs, follow us on Twitter, Facebook, and watch our YouTube movies.
- **Be a Hero of Compassion** Tell others about the situation in the Azawak and what *Amman Imman* is doing to help.
- **Get your school involved through our Wells of Love service-learning program** *Amman Imman* works with dozens of schools to build awareness of the Azawak and raise the money to build more boreholes. Contact us for help!
- **Get your community involved** Talk to other clubs, organizations, and businesses about the people of the Azawak and how they can help them. Work together on projects, and put them in touch with us!