Making the Connection:
How Water Impacts the Holistic Health of Rural African Communities

This lecture will focus on the interconnected impact of water, health and the environment. More specifically, this lecture will examine how access to clean and safe water in rural Tanzania and Ethiopia impacts community health, nutrition and environmental development. By focusing on rainwater harvesting at Ayalaliyo Primary School in Karatu, Tanzania and the construction of a protected spring in Jarso, Ethiopia, we will learn more about how water impacts the holistic health of African communities.

Kevin O’Brien
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Kevin is a graduate of Wilfrid Laurier University and has had an extensive career spanning 33 years in international cooperation and community development with both domestic and international civil society organizations from the grass roots level to senior administrative positions. Kevin worked for four and a half years as a community development worker and teacher in Sierra Leone, West Africa, living and working in remote rural villages. In 1986 he was appointed Assistant Director with Plan International in Sierra Leone, West Africa progressing to Country Director in Senegal. He was appointed Executive Director of Canadian Feed the Children in 1997 and transformed the organization from primarily being a commodity based relief organization to one utilizing responsive integrated community development strategies. Kevin has been serving as Executive Director of CPAR for the past ten years.