

# WATER GREAT

# SUCCESS!

## Scaling the heights for African aid

By Sally McDonald

A NORTH-east singing sensation who joined superstar buddy Pixie Lott to help save African children was today celebrating a twin success.

Tennille Amor - who runs the water aid charity Everyday People Initiating Change (EPIC) - today revealed she climbed the continent's highest mountain, Kilimanjaro, to raise awareness of its water problems.

And she said her team's latest efforts to sink new wells in Tanzania, coinciding with Tuesday's World Water Day, brought fresh water to 3,000 people.

Speaking today Tennille - who counts among her friends Will.i.am of Black Eyed Peas fame, Daniel Bedingfield and John Legend - said:

**"Raise awareness of drought"**

"We travelled back to Tanzania to check on our existing wells and carry out hygiene and sanitation education programmes.

"We brought three volunteers with us this time and we all decided to take on the daunting task of climbing Kilimanjaro.

"It was one of the hardest things we have ever done, but it was a symbolic representation of the millions of hours walked every day by women and children around the world in order to collect water for their families."

She and her pals took five days to go up the mountain and get back down.

"They suffered from oxygen deprivation and severe cold at nights but made it to the summit in time to see a new day dawning.

She added: "More than a billion people still lack access to drinkable water. In fact, 1.4 million children worldwide will die this year from water-borne diseases.

"That's more than 3,800 children every day."

Speaking from her home in New York, the former Cults woman said she and her business partner, US model Alexi Panos, had just completed a project to provide two new

wells in the village of Ugele in Tanzania. The £15,000 (£24,000 cost came from individual donations and EPIC's links with the Quiksilver Women's clothing line.

Tennille now has plans to provide clean water wells in the community of Ngoba. That project will be bankrolled with cash she raised when she and Pixie performed to a 500-strong crowd at the Evolution Dome in Cambridge last summer.

And former Cults Academy pupil Tennille - who in February was rubbing shoulders with the stars at the glittering Grammy awards in LA - revealed: "I will be climbing Kilimanjaro again in August."

"This time I will be raising more than awareness. I will be seeking sponsorship to raise cash for our projects."

And the big-hearted

**WELL HAPPY:** Kids show their delight as water springs from Kawe well in Tanzania.



**MEGASTAR:** Pixie Lott helped provide water by raising funds.



**JOY:** Tennille Amor and Alexi Panos celebrate with locals after the well provided clean water.



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