

## **NACRO GIVES CLEAN AND SAFE WATER TO COMMUNITIES IN PHALOMBE**

People from Group Village Headmen (GVH) Matepwe and Mukake's areas in Traditional Authority Kaduya in Phalombe are now all smiles, after New Apostolic Church Relief Organization (NACRO) provided them with safe and clean water through its Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Project currently being implemented in the district. The overall goal of the project is to contribute to increased access to safe water and sanitation coverage through basic sanitation infrastructure and hygiene promotion and self-help savings groups in Traditional Authority Kaduya.

In addition to contributing directly to Sustainable Development Goal Number 6 (To ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all), the overall objective of this project also contributes to the objective of the Malawi National Sanitation Policy (2008), which is to achieve universal access to improved sanitation, improved health, and safe hygiene behaviour. Complementary to this, the project also incorporates the small and medium entrepreneurs in the delivery of sanitation services, for example, through the construction of modern latrines and installation of solar powered water pumping systems.



*NACRO field office in Phalombe*

By the end of the project, NACRO intends to ensure that 3 solar based water pumping systems are developed and piped to 12 water points in 12 villages; 18 improved toilet blocks in public places (schools) are constructed with handwashing facilities; at least 12 to 24 Village Savings and Loans (VSL) groups targeting the communities in the targeted areas are formed and operational; and that best water, sanitation and hygiene practices are enhanced by building the capacity of at least 18 WASH committee members and the beneficiaries through community based management trainings. The project officially runs from July 2022 to April 2024. It is being funded by NAK-karitativ, a German NGO, and the German Government through the Federal

Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to the tune of MwK327 million (EUR 331,000).



*NACRO staff, the contractor, and the community inspect a solar powered water tank drilled at Mgone Village in Phalombe*

Speaking during a recent monitoring visit to the project site by NACRO and other key stakeholders, where the contractor handed over a total of thirteen (13) water points to NACRO, Village Headman Jimu from GVH Matepwe thanked NACRO for the tremendous work done to improve the water situation in his area. According to him, previously, women in this area used to fetch water from the nearby mountain. This was during the rainy seasons. He further lamented that women used to wake up as early as two o'clock in the morning and walk long distances to fetch water. "During the dry seasons, when the wells in the mountain ran dry, women from this area used to fetch water from shallow wells in dambo areas, which was contaminated with water-borne diseases. This is now a thing of the past, thanks to NACRO WASH Project. Once again, we are extremely grateful for this support, which will go a long way in improving people's lives in this area" he said.



*The contractor (in blue shirt) briefs the stakeholders about the proper use of the water point*