



THE MCHINJI WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH) PROJECT

Success story

In 2019, there was a cholera outbreak in Traditional Authority (TA) Mduwa's area in Mchinji district. Two people died as a result of the epidemic. There were numerous factors that led to the epidemic. People used to drink water from dambos and river banks together with grazing animals, as there was no proper source of clean and safe water. The water that people drank in villages such as Chimphanga, Chisomphayani, Kanyanda, and Chimongo, just like most of the villages in the area, was contaminated, and people were obviously exposed to water borne diseases such as diarrhea, dysentery, and cholera. People also used to drink unclean water from shallow wells. School children were having difficulties in accessing clean water for their hygienic activities both in their homes and at school. Women could lose their productive time to fetch water from the surrounding villages. Most homes were unhygienic because there was too much economy of water. There were a lot of fights by women in water sources while scrambling for water. Girls skipped classes, as they had to assist their homes in fetching water.



A water source previously used to draw drinking water from by people at Chisomphayani Village

In responding to these challenges, New Apostolic Church Relief Organization (NACRO) decided to implement a Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH) project in the area of Traditional Authority Mduwa from September 2019 with funding from NAK-karitativ of Germany in order to contribute to increased access to safe water and sanitation coverage through basic sanitation infrastructure and hygiene promotion. Specifically, the project was designed to improve living conditions of people and improve water and sanitation of targeted communities in the area. Through the project, NACRO has implemented a number of interventions, one of which is the development of solar pumping water systems in two Group Village Heads of Mkangala and Kanyanda targeting 389 households and a total population of 2,495, drilling

of 6 boreholes fitted with hand pumps targeting 280 households and a population of 1,861 people including community members, school learners, and congregants.



A gravity-fed water pumping system installed at Chimphanga Village

As a result of this intervention, people have abandoned shallow wells and unsafe water sources; an indication that they are now efficiently using the safe water from the water taps established by the project. Seven villages and one school have now clean and safe piped water. Cases of water borne diseases have now reduced in the area.



A water point installed at Gombe Primary School being inspected by the Executive Director (Mr T Yubai) and the Country Program Coordinator (Mr A Ngwira)

According to Passwell Chiumia, Water Monitoring Assistant for Mchinji District, no cases of cholera have been reported in TA Mduwa's area since the commencement of NACRO's WASH Project in the area. He further says that women now use their time efficiently due to easy access of water as a result of this project. "As Government, we are extremely grateful to NACRO for the job well done. This really complements our effort in promoting water and sanitation hygiene in this area," says Passwell. "We are requesting other stakeholders especially NGOs to emulate the good example set by NACRO. The quality and statesmanship of this work is extremely impeccable," he concludes.