

I. Safe Water Access Project: Empowering Mbalame Village with a Sustainable Borehole Solution, Malawi

- Local partner: Touch of Hope (#331)
Touch of Hope is a Lilongwe-based organization founded in 2018 with the mission of improving socially and economically the lives of vulnerable and marginalized individuals in Malawi, in order to create a bright future for communities.
- Project budget: \$2,290.89 (JWF Fund \$1,500, implementing organization: \$608.39, beneficiaries: \$182.50)
- Project expenditure: \$3,417.99 (JWF Fund \$1,500, implementing organization: \$1,383.71, beneficiaries: \$534.27, 149% of budget for a borehole depth of 45m to 80m. Additional costs, including those due to inflation, were borne by the locals.)
- Number of beneficiaries: 2,190 (342 men, 365 women, 1,483 children)
- Background:
The sole reliable source of clean water in Mbalame village was a single borehole at Mbalame Primary School, which served the entire community. Demand for water far exceeded the capacity of the borehole, forcing most villagers to rely on unsafe shallow hand-dug wells, which were prone to contamination from surface runoff. The use of contaminated wells led to waterborne diseases in the rainy season. In the dry season, these alternative water sources dried up, leaving villagers only with water from the unsanitary Malingunde dam, located 3 Km away, highlighting the urgent need for improved water infrastructure.

【Before Implementation】



Fetching water from an unsanitary hand-dug well



Poor quality, dirty water from a hand-dug well



Women and children traveled long distances to fetch unsanitary water

- Details of the project:
 - Drilling and constructing a borehole, installation of a hand pump
 - Community training and capacity-building on operations, maintenance and management of the borehole
 - Health and hygiene education in the community

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[During Implementation]



Stakeholder meeting



Purchase of materials



Water users' committee



Geophysical survey



Borehole drilling operation



Platform construction



Construction of a borehole platform



Ms. Mdziwanji Chilowera
38 years old

We used to drink water containing frogs and tadpoles and walk long distances just to find water. We would quarrel with others and stand long hours in queues. This new borehole is indeed a blessing, and we have tasted real happiness. May God bless all those who made this possible.



Ms. Idah Chiponda
65 years old

I am truly grateful for the borehole facility. Before its arrival, I had to rely on my grandsons to fetch water for me every day. Now, they have more time to focus on their schoolwork and enjoy their playtime freely. Thank you.



Mr. Anderson Zindondo
59 years old

On behalf of Mbalame Village, I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for making our dream a reality. This borehole has not only transformed our lives but has also strengthened our sense of pride and dignity. I assure you that we will take great care of this facility. Please remember us whenever new opportunities arise. My people are always ready to collaborate to find solutions. Feel free to come and work with us or reach out whenever you need our support. Thank you once again.



Finished borehole



Women at the borehole explaining how their lives have changed