

4. Kubelenga Na Kulima (To read and Garden), Zambia

- Local partner: Child Youth Intellects for Change (CYIC) (#226)
A youth-led, non-profit organization established in 2017 to promote literacy, environmental sustainability, and community resilience. Edwin Mulongoti Primary School has benefitted from the Kubelenga Na Kulima project carried out by CYIC, promoting sustainable agriculture through tree planting and gardening.
- Project cost: \$1,643.38 (JWF Fund: \$1,500, implementing organization: \$143.38)
budget: \$1,584.77 (JWF Fund: \$1,500, implementing organization: \$84.77)
- Number of beneficiaries: 2,127 (20 men, 15 women, 2,092 children)
- Background:
Despite having a mechanized borehole system, the school was facing persistent water shortages. Frequent power outages by electricity supplier ZESCO significantly limited the ability to pump and store water, resulting in empty tanks and inadequate water supply. The water scarcity left toilets without water and created an unhygienic environment. The orchard and garden used for the school's nutrition and environmental education were under threat. CYIC donated a fourth water tank to boost storage capacity, but the lack of consistent water pumping due to power outages remained unresolved.

(Before)



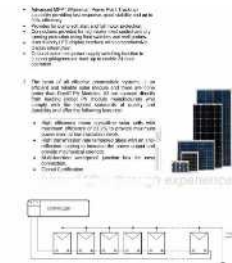
Pupils showed up to water the garden, but no water



Water storage tanks supplied by an electric submersible water pump



Proposed solar power system



- Details of the project:
 - Procured and installed solar panels, repaired damaged pump end. Conducted 2 training sessions for school staff and community members on system use and maintenance, and 3 training sessions for pupils on and WASH and climate change awareness.
 - A School Water and Garden Maintenance Committee was established to oversee daily operations and care of the system. Financial sustainability is supported through a school-based maintenance fund, mobilized from small parental contributions, proceeds from the school garden, and community fundraising activities.

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【During】



Installation of solar panels



Connection of solar powered pump



Connection testing



Pump end replaced



Training on solar water system installation



School caretaker and garden manager, and CYIC MD



Water Sanitation and climate awareness training and handover

【After】



Pupils learning about water usage



Children drinking safe water from the school tank



Visible improvement in crop growth



Mr. Ngwenya, 57 years old

Mr. Ngwenya expressed deep gratitude to the JWF and CYIC for the solar powered water system. He highlighted that from 19 January 2026, the school experienced four days without electricity and would normally have been forced to close. However, due to the solar water system, water access continued uninterrupted, ensuring that pupils and the surrounding community were not affected.



Ms. Felistas Zulu, 52 years old

Ms. Felistas shared her happiness over the constant availability of water, noting that she no longer needs to stay up late at night pumping when electricity was available. She also emphasized that irrigation of the school garden can now be done anytime, improving food production and reducing physical strain.



Joseph, 13 years old

Joseph expressed excitement over joining Kubelenga na Kulima, where he learned about climate change impacts and solutions. He said that before the project, the lack of water affected gardening activities, but now solar technology allows water access. He added that the club keeps him engaged in positive activities and prevents negative influences.



Brandina Kunda, 12 years old

Brandina expressed pride that the SDG Goal 7 she represented in the Little Miss Intellect Zambia talent show, *2024 Clean energy and water sanitation*, has been realized through the solarization of her former school. She said that seeing the school benefit from clean energy solutions inspires her continued advocacy for climate action, education, and sustainable development.