

Malongo Village Report

Thanks to support from the Trade Aid Foundation the 129 people in Malongo village, Western Zambia are now drinking safe water, have safe places to go to the toilet and the knowledge to wash their hands after. Your support has transformed the community.

There are 21 families in Malongo including 33 children under the age of 10. Families in the village are subsistence farmers who grow cassava, groundnuts, millet and rice. Some households also keep chickens, rear cows and fish. The village's GPS coordinates are: -15.0874890000, 22.7901670000. If you put these coordinates into Google Maps you can see the location of the village.



Your support improves health

Before your support the community were drinking dirty river water. 14 families in the village had some form of latrine, but only 5 households had a hand-washing device. Consequently, there were high levels of waterborne diseases. At every village visit field staff conduct health surveys with three households, asking whether anyone has been ill with scabies, diarrhoea or eye infection in the last seven days. Household health surveys mean we can track improvements in health at every stage of the programme.

At the first hygiene and sanitation training in June 2015 the household health survey found that 21% of people surveyed were suffering from diarrhoea. After the well was completed in January 2016 the household health survey found that 0% of people surveyed were suffering from diarrhoea. Being healthier means children have more time to go to school and adults have more time to farm and provide for their families.

Hygiene and sanitation training

Hygiene and sanitation education sessions covered disease prevention, the links between waterborne diseases and poor hygiene, the importance of hand-washing and more. Following the training each household began building their own simple sanitation facilities including a pit latrine with tippy-tap for hand-washing, a bath shelter, dish rack, pestle and mortar stand and rubbish pit from locally, freely available materials: this means even the poorest household can participate and access sanitation.



The village were extremely motivated to improve their sanitation practises. Robert Matumbo Muyenga told field staff in August 2015: *“All I want is to make sure that no-one disturbs such developments as the ones aimed at improving our health by uplifting our sanitation. We will ensure that everyone prepares material for the construction of pit latrines”*.



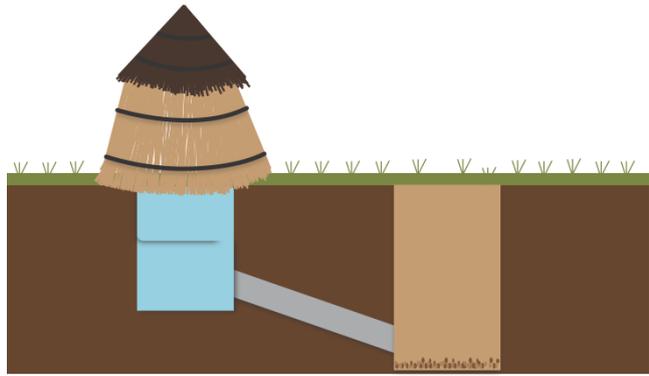
The new well is only installed once each household has built their own pit latrine with tippy-tap. During a visit in January 2016 field staff found that all households had a latrine with tippy-tap, and nearly all households had constructed a bath shelter (19), dish rack (20) and rubbish pit (18). The village is also open defecation free as all the households are using their new latrines.

A new type of latrine

As part of our hygiene and sanitation training we support villagers to build simple hand-dug pit latrines, which they line with basket weave to stop the hole from collapsing. A dried, washed mud slab is placed over the hole and a hut built around it. Western Province is prone to flooding. In bad floods many pit latrines collapse and families cannot rebuild until the floods have receded. During this time families have no choice but to go back to open defecation.

To solve this problem the Village Water Zambia team has designed a reinforced pilot pit latrine. The UK Department for International Development, through our Well Good Appeal, provided funding for piloting the project in 400 households. The pilot latrines will be longer lasting, less prone to collapse in the floods and more sustainable, allowing families to enjoy the continuous and uninterrupted use of a latrine, which brings the greatest health benefits.

Malongo was selected to be part of the pilot in 2015. Each household has been given two plastic barrel drums and trained in how to construct the new type of latrine. The latrine is reinforced with two PVC barrel drums instead of basket weave. A sealed pit is dug close to the latrine and when the latrine is full the plug is pulled from the bottom barrel to allow the contents to drain into the sealed pit. We are monitoring the pilot latrines for 2 years to see if they are more sustainable and if successful we hope they will become a model for future use.



Water

Before your support the community were drinking dirty water from the Luanginga River, sharing it with animals.



The community are now drinking safe water from a safe, protected well. The new well was manually drilled in January 2016 to a depth of 24 metres to future-proof it against climate change. It takes 3 strokes of the hand-pump to produce water and 45 strokes to fill an average 20 litre container. The water has been tested and is safe to drink.

Mrs Nalucha Kalyanga told field staff in February 2016: *“We are happy because we have safe water near our homes”*.

The community has established a water committee to look after the new water-point, collect funds for future repairs and spare parts, and administer a pump maintenance rota. The community has been trained in basic pump maintenance and given a simple toolkit. This system will ensure that the pump does not break down. In due course the community will build a shelter with a roof and a gate around the well to protect it.

Thank you for your support