

Since 2004 Village Water has supported safe water, hygiene and sanitation promotion for more than 200,000 people in rural Africa.

The need

In rural Zambia, 49% of people still lack safe water, and in Mozambique it is a shocking 63%. Most people use water from unprotected scoop holes or rivers for drinking, cooking and washing.

Rural sanitation is even worse. 7 in 10 Zambians and 9 in 10 Mozambicans practise open defecation as they lack basic facilities. Eye and skin infections are common and diarrhoea, preventable and easily treatable when people know how, still kills 30 children under five every day in Zambia and Mozambique.

With half the population in both countries under 15 years old, a lack of safe water, decent hygiene and sanitation is a barrier to them fulfilling their potential. When young people are sick, or needed at home to fetch water, they miss school. In addition, many girls simply drop out of education once they reach puberty due to inadequate facilities and poor attitudes and knowledge around menstrual hygiene.

The Village Water Way

Safe water on its own has a limited impact, so we adopt an integrated approach to improve hygiene practices, sanitation facilities and water quality in villages, schools and health centres, where people spend their day. Our aim is to reduce waterborne disease and school absenteeism by over 80% across our project area.

We start with participatory hygiene promotion so people understand the benefits of changing their habits to reduce diseases. We then demonstrate how to build low-tech sanitation facilities using locally available materials and community labour, including latrines and handwashing stations. Once completed, we will fund the construction of a protected water point.

School and village committees oversee activities and start collecting funds for future repair needs. Every village has a nominated repair person who receives training and a simple tool kit and ensures the pump is cleaned and functioning smoothly. More serious repairs are done by trained manual drillers, funded by the community.

Building local capacity

Our model supports in-country partners to deliver project activities appropriate to the local environment. We work with non-governmental organisations and local authorities, supporting them with training, resources and materials to ensure that they have the skills to develop, implement, monitor and report on project activities.

The impact of our work in Kalwhizi Village.



This is the old water source used by the 127 children and 99 adults living in Kalwhizi village before Village Water intervened in late 2015.



Just 5 families in Kalwizhi had any sort of toilet when we first visited. After hygiene education, all 32 households built pit latrines & tippy taps. The community recognised that the lack of sanitation was the cause of their ill health.

The village headman told us: *'I cannot hide the truth that people in my village have no toilets; everyone here knows how we suffer from diarrhoea, dysentery and so many other diseases. Yes, we have to change.'*

Since 2011 we have invested in developing manual drilling as a low-cost, safe and appropriate technology, helping establish local enterprises to service the growing demand for water. Drillers can reach areas with poor road access and complete a well in one day, compared to the weeks needed for dangerous manual digging. In 2017 we are trialling the technology in new locations to advocate for its use with the Government alongside the preferred mechanical drilling model in order to reach the Sustainable Development Goal for water by 2030.

Delivering lasting change

The impact of improved water and sanitation extend way beyond counting the number of people reached. More important are the health benefits which enable communities to develop.

Our data, gathered at various stages shows us how households have changed. 2016 results include:



84% have handwashing



95% have latrines



82% drop in diarrhoea



81% drop in girl's absenteeism

Village Water continues to support communities and to monitor pump functionality to ensure that our methods are having the desired long-lasting impact. A recent study of 531 water points constructed between 2004 & 2016 showed 98% of them were fully functioning.



The children of Kalwizhi celebrate their new waterpoint in December 2015. During a follow-up visit in December 2016 we found the water point working well, all households still have a pit latrine and improved hygiene practices. Cases of diarrhoea have dropped by 100% and eye infection by 33%.

One community member told us *'Since the coming of Village Water, disease prevalence has reduced. Diarrhoea and eye infections were common but now we are enjoying health from our safe and clean source of water.'*

Once families enjoy better health, they tell us they have more time and energy to invest in farming, their children's education, and on income earning opportunities, such as market gardening and livestock.

Our 2017 Programme:

From April 2017 to March 2018, we will support water and sanitation, including menstrual hygiene and flood resistant latrines, in 66 communities and schools in Zambia and Mozambique; trial manual drilling in different locations and invest in ensuring the new Mozambique programme is well resourced and supported.

How your support could help:

Village Water would like to ask the Trustees of Trade Aid UK Foundation to consider supporting our work with a grant of £4,600 This will support a community of approximately 150 people in Zambia with safe water, sanitation and hygiene education in 2017.

Programme activity	Cost £
Well construction	144,783
Pump refurbishment	36,000
Mozambique set up & development	80,518
Manual drilling advocacy	27,600
Sustainability study	18,000
Monitoring & evaluation	52,676
Support costs	60,561
Total	£420,138
Secured to date	£148,033
Still to raise	£272,105

Thank you for your consideration