



Solving the Water Problem

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Zimbabwe

A report for Nutrition Republic Café

Reporting timeframe: July 2016 – June 2017

Total duration of project: July 2013 – June 2017



Thank you

Thank you for helping to bring clean water and improved sanitation and hygiene to schools and communities in the Chivi District of southern Zimbabwe. Your generous support of our Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) project has helped ensure better health for women, school children and communities living in a water-scarce environment. Phase one of this project is complete, and has been hugely successful in changing the lives of some of Zimbabwe's most vulnerable people. Over the four years the project has run, you have helped bring safe, clean drinking water, better hygiene and sanitation to 53,111 people – a remarkable result. Thanks to the success of this project, it has been extended into a new phase, aiming to reach another 80,000 people in another region of Chivi District over the next four years.

Final impact report

What you've helped make happen:

In the last year:

- 29 boreholes repaired, and 2,095 new toilets built
- Girls missing less school because of menstrual issues
- In 154 villages, people are no longer forced to defecate in the open, as they now have access to toilets
- 30 new toilets built for children at 25 schools, including disability-friendly toilets

Over the four-year project:

- 94% of people in Chivi now have safe drinking water and 98% of people have access to sanitation facilities. This is a 27% increase from when we started the program in Zimbabwe.
- Twice the number of men are involved in water collection
- 80 new toilet builders have been trained, including 47 women
- 29 new village pump mechanics have been trained, including 16 women
- 170 villages certified Open Defecation Free
- 50 wheelchair accessible toilets built in schools
- Diarrhoea cases reduced on average by 22%
- 6,923 new toilets built, benefitting more than 40,000 people
- 170 new toilets built at schools, benefitting 9,526 students
- 182 boreholes drilled or repaired, providing clean water to 50,377 people



Patience's story

Patience, 13, lives in Gwauya village in the Chivi District. Before a borehole was built in her village, Patience walked three hours every day to collect water.

"Going to the borehole delayed me in completing my school work as well as getting to school on time," says Patience.

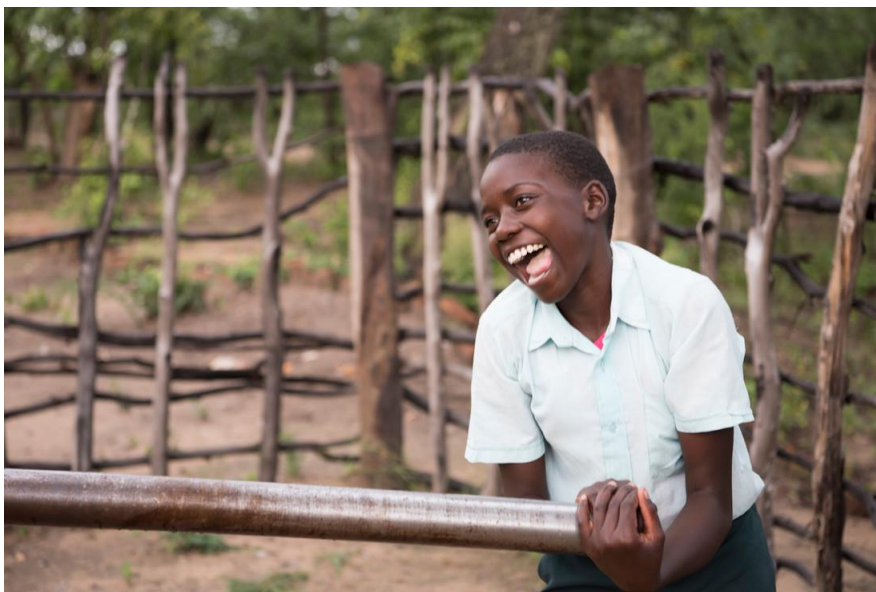
"In the evening, I would get home late and not have time to do my homework.

"Going to the old borehole used to take one hour. It would take another hour waiting for the water, and then coming back would take an hour, making it a total of three hours.

"It was stressful for me. Very stressful. It wasn't enough water.

"Now the water is enough because even if I come late from school, I can still manage to collect water and come back. Even in the morning, if I go, I can still make it in time for school.

"I can now do my homework and other household chores. One day I hope to be able to support my parents and my brother."



Why this project was needed

In Zimbabwe, where more than 72 per cent of people live below the poverty line, more than half of Zimbabweans in rural areas don't have access to clean water or toilets. Women and girls spend a huge amount of time collecting water for the family and girls often miss out on school because of this, or drop out when there are inadequate sanitation facilities. Poor sanitation is also a great risk for communities, with water-borne disease and diarrheal outbreaks more likely.

Investing in clean water benefits everyone. By starting with hygiene education and facilities in schools, children will be healthier, share the health messages with their families, and attend school more often. When communities have clean, safe water close by and can access safe toilets, they are healthier and spend more time going to school and earning an income.

Project objectives

- Provide more than 30,000 people with clean water, sanitation services and hygiene practices
- Ensure community and local institutions are responsive to women and girls' water, sanitation and hygiene needs
- Ensure the Chivi District Water and Sanitation Sub-Committee can deliver equal access to water and sanitation facilities.

How you have made an impact

Water points provide safe drinking water to thousands

Since the start of the project, 182 boreholes have been drilled, rehabilitated or repaired, meaning 50,377 people now have access to secure, clean water – far exceeding our initial target of reaching 30,000 people. The 182 boreholes are providing safe drinking water to 94% of people living in the 10 wards of the Chivi District where CARE has run our WASH project. This is a 27% increase from when we started the program in Zimbabwe.

Many people are now walking less than 1.5km to access clean water, compared to 4km at the start of the project. Because they no longer must walk such long distances to access water, girls are spending less time collecting water, and have more time for school, homework and other activities.

Over the course of the project CARE has also helped set up 475 Water Point Committees across the Chivi district, 50% of which are led by women. These committees oversee and take responsibility for the communities' boreholes.

40,000 people have access to safe, clean toilets

Throughout the project, 6,923 toilets have been built by the communities, meaning more than 40,000 people, or 97% of the population across the Chivi District, now have access to safe, clean toilets, and are no longer forced to defecate in the open. This is a huge increase of 48%.

Providing for the needs of people with disabilities is an important aspect of the Zimbabwe WASH project. Three accessible toilets have been built in communities, and 50 wheelchair accessible toilets have been built in schools. People with disabilities are also given priority when communities decide which households most need new toilets built.

Over the life of the project, 80 local toilet builders (47 women) have been trained to assist communities build secure toilets. The building of toilets by women builders has also served as a key income generating activity, in which women earn \$30 to \$80 USD per job. Their position also challenges the community's perception of women's traditional roles and responsibilities.



How you have made an impact

Women leading the way in better water and hygiene

Women now hold 70% of positions in Sanitation Action groups, and make up 96% of the Community Health Clubs. These local organisations drive the implementation of sanitation and hygiene programs in their villages. All 475 Water Point Committees have equal gender representation, with 50% being led by women. At the end of the project, 54% of School Development Committee Members are women, tasked with running school construction of toilets and handwashing stations.

Less girls missing school because of menstruation

Improved sanitation facilities in toilets and hygiene training in schools has resulted in a significant drop in the number of girls missing school when they have their periods – a 50% decrease in primary school, and a huge 70% decrease in secondary school. Girl-friendly toilets in schools have cloth pads, a mirror, soap, a bucket and tap, so girls can feel comfortable changing their sanitary pads.

The introduction of School Health Clubs has built the confidence of students to talk about menstruation and take much of the taboo out of the topic, making girls more confident to be at school when they have their period.

Men and boys have greater awareness of women's rights and needs

Throughout the project, there has been a shift in the attitudes of men and boys towards traditional gender roles. Boys are participating in sewing reusable sanitary pads for their female peers, and are now more supportive and understanding of menstrual health. Men are engaging more in water chores traditionally done by women, with double the amount of men (from nine per cent to 18%) now collecting water, lessening the burden that was solely on women.

The WASH project has established small men's and boys' groups in communities and schools, where gender topics are discussed alongside activities like soccer. Engaging men and boys will be an important part of the next phase of this project, where greater emphasis will be placed on men and boys sharing WASH responsibilities like collecting water.

Huge reduction in diarrhoea and death

Thanks to an increase in the number of toilets, the access to clean water, and improved handwashing practices, 170 villages in the Chivi District have been declared Open Defecation Free, and diarrhoeal disease has reduced by an average of 22%. This means better health and less sick days and loss of income for adults and less days off school for children.



How you have made an impact

Communities leading and funding the building and repairs of toilets

Community members are working together to finance and rebuild damaged toilets, using local skills and knowledge. Throughout the project, 70 Community Health Clubs – made up of 86% women – have formed community savings groups which have collectively raised \$17,140 USD to fund the building of toilets and drying racks to prevent the spread of bacteria. Communities have built and funded 22 toilets near water points and upgraded 89 toilets. This demonstrates that people in the communities want to keep improving their toilet facilities, and have ownership of the initiative, meaning that the achievements of the project will be sustained once CARE leaves the area.

Innovative use of WhatsApp enhancing communication

The project established various stakeholder and community groups on the free mobile messaging platform WhatsApp to collect data and share best practices. WhatsApp groups were established for School Health Club Coordinators, Ward Water Committees and District Water Committees. These groups are very active, independently sharing information with little prompting from the CARE project team.

Using WhatsApp to collect and share information has significantly cut costs by reducing the amount of face-to-face monitoring visits required by Project Officers in the field. By monitoring the data and information shared by stakeholders on WhatsApp, Project Officers could target their visits to those villages that need the most support, saving on transport costs.

More importantly, the use of WhatsApp has increased the involvement of community and project stakeholders in the collection of data and built links between different communities in Chivi District.



Overcoming obstacles

Challenge

In February 2017, Cyclone Dineo hit Southern Zimbabwe, destroying 183 toilets and slowing down the attainment of open defecation free status for some villages.

Solution

Communities rebuilt 168 toilets that had been destroyed from the cyclone, demonstrating that CARE has embedded local expertise to support these community-led projects.

Challenge

During 2016/17 a drought caused by El Nino caused water shortages in some areas of Chivi District. Water was rationed in some areas to ensure equal access for all people.

Solution

CARE focused on ensuring that boreholes that provide water throughout the year, rather than seasonally, are maintained.

Challenge

Project staff have found it difficult to engage people living with disabilities beyond those with physical incapacities, because of social stigma.

Solution

Health education sessions were used as a platform to meaningfully include the voice of all members of the community, including those with 'hidden' disabilities.



Building a sustainable future

The project has focused strongly on sustainability, with the establishment of community groups including 475 Water Point Committees, Sanitation Action Groups, and Community and School Health Clubs over the course of the project. These community groups will take responsibility for ongoing management and functionality of the boreholes and toilets, and maintaining hygiene education. Already, communities have funded 26 borehole repairs, 2 new boreholes, and 22 toilets using the services of project-trained village pump mechanics and toilet builders.

Village Savings and Loans groups established across 70 Community Health Clubs have enabled communities to fund construction of their own sanitation facilities. So far, these 70 groups have raised \$17,140 USD to fund toilets and drying rack construction that prevents water sitting in pools and breeding bacteria. School Development Committees have adopted WASH levies with each child's family contributing a small amount every three months. This levy pays for sanitation items including materials for sewing reusable sanitary pads as well as disposable pads, soap and toilet paper. In future, the funds could support larger WASH projects.

The government has been involved in the project from district to village level. These structures will continue after the project ends and provide support to local leadership of committees.

Over the next four years, this project will be rolled out in the southern part of Chivi District, helping another 80,000 people build cleaner, healthier futures for themselves and their families. Thank you for making the first phase of this project so successful. You have had a truly lifesaving impact on the lives of thousands of people.



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