

CHITENGA COMMUNITY SCHOOL , CHIEF MNKHANYA, MFUWE, ZAMBIA.

Sponsors – Schulprojekt Sambia. Completed drilling – OCTOBER 2018

The Challenge – to bring clean, safe water to the villages and schools of the Luangwa Valley in a way that enables them to avoid human/wildlife conflict and ensures that the communities benefit from and engage with wildlife conservation as well as improving health, school attendance, productivity, all round well-being and quality of life.

Around 8,000 people live in the villages of Mnkhanya Chiefdom and the population is rapidly growing. It has doubled in the last 20 years and continues to grow year on year. The communities are mixed, most of them farming close to subsistence level depending on growing their own food, mainly maize and sorghum. There are employment opportunities at the safari lodges, at Tribal Textiles and at the airport and banks. The area is thickly forested and fertile, but there are more cattle people arriving from the plateaus of Zambia now which is not good news for the forests of Mnkhanya so it is very important to work in collaboration with the Chief, conservationists and planners to ensure we only put water where it is sensible and advantageous to encourage settlement.

Chitenga Community School is situated in one of the more populous areas of Mnkhanya. The community took it upon themselves to start the school because even though there are quite a few villages nearby; there was no primary school. The nearest is over 5km – obviously much too far for Grades 1 – 6 to walk. Initially the 100 or so pupils were taught in a mud and brick classroom.



The original mud brick and thatch classroom



The new school block built by the community and High Five Club

But thanks to the determination of the school committee and the support of the High Five Club – a local NGO who raised funds to build a two classroom block - there are now over 200 pupils at Chivundula Community School ranging from pre-school to Grade 5. Chitenga is run by volunteers and has no government support, the volunteer teachers are supported by donation from parents and guardians of the pupils.

Now the next big and very urgent challenge presented itself. With the sudden growth in the number of pupils at the school, the nearby, rapidly dwindling well was not providing enough clean, safe water for the school and the local villagers.



Village well – drying up



Drilling in progress



Finishing up



Pump testing



Plentiful clean safe water at Chitenga School shared with the nearby villagers





THANK YOU TO ALL THE SUPPORTERS WHO HAVE REALISED OUR DREAM OF A SCHOOL WITH ITS OWN BOREHOLE! Picture courtesy of High Five Club.

Now they have access to clean, fresh and safe water they will also be able to build the much needed ablution blocks for the pupils.

Not only are the dangers of water borne diseases now things of the past, but now the women and children have more time for education, sports, farming and other pastimes. The communities in which we install our boreholes create productive vegetable gardens which produce more than enough for their own needs and dramatically improve nutrition. The excess is sold locally providing a useful cash income and adding to food security.

Each borehole means that a community of at least 200 men, women and children, instead of travelling miles to dangerous rivers or scooping dirty water from shallow wells, can access to clean, safe water - for life.

UNICEF millennium development goal.

' In order for children and families to benefit from clean water and sanitation, water points and sanitation facilities must be accessible. Distance is critical because the shorter the distance to clean water, the more consistently it will be utilised. Furthermore, as fetching water is a task most commonly assigned to girls and women, shortening the distance between households and water supply is essential to reduce the time girls spend in fetching water, which in turn will provide them with more time

“One of the most important aspects of wildlife conservation is to get the co-operation of the local community. It has been shown that this is not possible unless they can receive material benefit from their wildlife.”

Norman Carr 1958 Luangwa Valley.