

MFUWE PRIMARY SCHOOL , CHIEF KAKUMBI, 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 15,000 people live in the villages of Kakumbi Chiefdom and the population is rapidly growing. It has doubled in the last 20 years and continues to grow year on year. Over half the population is in the 0 – 14 age group. Kakumbi people are farmers but this is also where most of the employment opportunities are in the Luangwa Valley with many safari lodges and related businesses. There is an emerging middle class and a thriving local economy. However – with these opportunities come problems; particularly rapid population growth, social issues and unplanned development.

Despite (or perhaps, because of) the relative ‘wealth’ of the area some issues such as overcrowded classrooms are worse in Kakumbi than all the other Chiefdoms. Class sizes regularly exceed 80 pupils and it is not unusual to find 100 pupils in a class meant for 30.

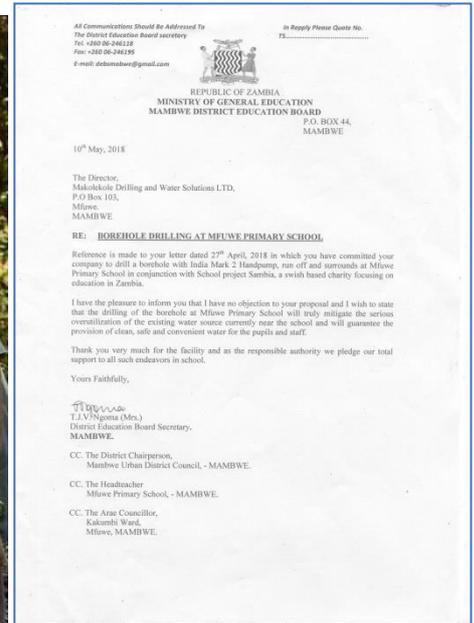
Mfuwe Primary School is in one of the most crowded areas of Kakumbi. In 2018 over 1,200 pupils in grades 1 – 7 enrolled. Not only is there a serious lack of space and teaching staff but the school did not have its own borehole. The pupils and teachers were sharing with the local community and the borehole was hopelessly overused.



Water collection started at 3am in the morning with women and children lining buckets up and having to wait hours for their turn.

There was often conflict at the village borehole as the water supply needs of 1,200 pupils caused even greater delays.

The District Board Education Secretary had been asking for a long time for some support to tackle this challenge so Mfuwe Primary was selected as a high priority when funding became available.



Discussions with Headmaster Sakala

DEBS permission letter



Drilling at Mfuwe Primary School



Some passing mouse collectors (roasted mice are a local delicacy) watching the drilling



At last the pump is in.



Happy to have their own water supply with unlimited access to clean, safe and convenient water for the 1,200 pupils of Mfuwe Primary School.

Not only are the dangers of water borne diseases now things of the past, but now the pupils have more time for education, sports and other pastimes. The villagers nearby benefit now that the pressure is taken off the only local borehole.



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 useful cash income and adding to food security.

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.