

Chikosi Village, Chief Kakumbi, Mfuwe, Zambia

Sponsors – Schulprojekt Sambia. Completed drilling – May 2020

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 20,000 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. It is one of the most mixed communities in the Eastern Province. There are many long term residents who live in villages that have been established for at least two hundred years still relying on traditional methods of subsistence farming. But with the success of the safari industry there has been quite an influx of new residents.

Chikosi Village is in Kakumbi Chiefdom. It was one of the boreholes identified as being in particular need by the Kakumbi Rural Health Centre. Headman Chikosi is Alick Kopa. The village is situated not far from the main tar road between the South Luangwa National Park gate and Mfuwe airport. **S13°07'18" E31°49'25"**

At least 100 households will use the new borehole - it is very populous village and rapidly growing. Currently the residents are having to use a private borehole across the road from the village. They have to pay for this so anyone on very limited income cannot make use of it and has a round trip of 4km to the nearest community borehole which itself is over-crowded.

The tar road has become quite busy so it is also very dangerous for children, who - like women - are the traditional water collectors, to keep crossing the road especially with heavy water containers.

The owner of the borehole also limits collection times so it becomes crowded with long waits as use cannot be spread across the whole day. It is not ideal for the community to have to rely on a privately owned borehole and it's not fair of us to assume that the owner should allow residents free access and free use. He is a private citizen who has used his own money to drill a borehole for his home and family.



A very overcrowded borehole in Kakumbi



Little water carriers



Drilling underway at Chikosi Village



Young volunteers helping unload the casings at Chikosi Village



The new borehole in action at Chikosi Village – clean, safe water right on the doorstep!



Chikosi borehole in use



“Thank you” from the youngsters of Chikosi

Not only will 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.



A nearby borehole with handpump



A productive veggie garden at the nearby borehole.



Proud gardener in a nearby Village Community garden which is irrigated with the overflow from the village borehole (in the background) growing green leafy vegetables like rape , spinach and Chinese leaves.

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 to attend school.'

“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.