

Aonenj, Chief Nsefu, Mfuwe, Zambia **Sponsor – Schulprojekte Sambia – 2023**

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, especially for women and girls.

Around 15'000 people live in the villages of Nsefu Chiefdom and the population is growing. Nsefu is situated over the Lupande River from Kakumbi Chiefdom and whilst some people in Nsefu benefit from tourism in the form of employment and enterprise opportunities, it is otherwise a marginal area where subsistence agriculture, upon which most Nsefu residents rely, is made extremely difficult by the lack of water and by the presence of wildlife. Nsefu Villages are particularly prone to elephant damage in their crops and homes. Water collection can be dangerous and often leads to human/wildlife conflict (HWC) – a major obstacle to engaging communities in conservation.

Aonenji Village – S13.177222 E31.945833 – 100+ Households – more than 500 residents



Aonenji is a large village spread over quite a wide area. Residents had to share a borehole which was very overcrowded and over-utilised often breaking down. Then, the only option was the Msandile river about 2km distant with all the attendant challenges of dirty water, dangerous wild animals and exhausting hard work.



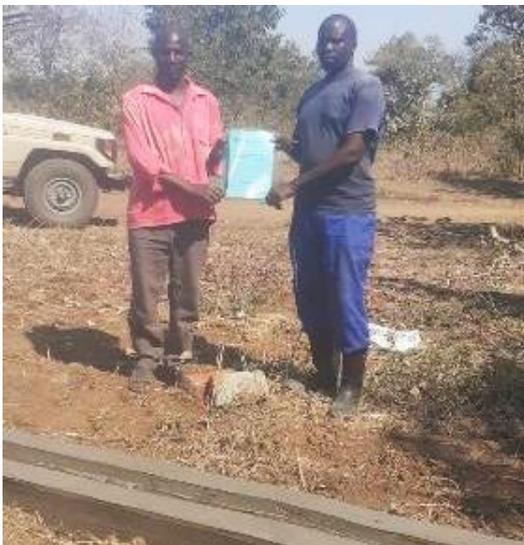
Left - Very over-utilised, broken down borehole that Aonenji residents had to travel to - sometimes works, often does not. It was done cheaply by another operator and the problems are clear. Right - Young Aonenji resident using Uncle's bicycle to collect water for home. Time consuming and gruelling.



Drilling underway at Aonenji



The first clean, safe water is pumped at Aonenji – during the pump testing, residents take the chance to fill their buckets for home.



L - Headman Aonenji is presented with his Water and Sanitary Hygiene (WASH) handbook with which all communities are provided. This enables him and the borehole committee to ensure borehole users know the guidance for usage of the borehole, and the garden pond and have a refresher course in basic WASH information.

R – The headman wasted no time in starting to inform the community.

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.’

Thank you!

