

Chifuka Village, Chief Mnkhangya, Luangwa Valley.

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 8,000 people live in the villages of Mnkhangya 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 Mnkhangya 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

Chifuka is a small and relatively remote village of 40 households. Headman Chifuka explained to us that currently the residents are collecting water from an open hole which had become polluted. The need at Chifuka was urgent and alternative sources of water are even further away than 2km.



The huge, rapidly drying riverbed well from which the resident of Chifuka collect their water. Headman Chifuka is pictured in the well.



I was not able to get pictures of the actual drilling at Chifuka. The Headman explained however that water collection had become an extremely serious problem in his village and that water borne diseases, especially in the young and frail had risen dramatically. He was particularly worried, during this Covid-19 pandemic. about access to clean, safe water and was aware that Chifuka residents were not able to socially isolate or continually wash hands in the fight against Covid.



Headman Chifuka delightedly says 'Thank you' with a group of his young residents at his new borehole.



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.



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.