

## **CHIVUNDULA COMMUNITY SCHOOL , CHIEF MNKHANYA. MFUWE, ZAMBIA.**

### **Sponsors – Schulprojekt Sambia. Completed drilling - 15/10/18**

**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.

Chivundula Community School is in a very remote part of Mnkhanya. It was started by the community themselves because the nearest school was over 9 kilometres away – obviously much too far for the younger children to walk – although from Grade 7 – children from Chivundula and nearby villages undertake this long walk to school and back daily. There are 300 pupils at Chivundula Community School ranging from pre-school to Grade 5. There are 5 volunteer teachers from the local community and 3 teachers supplied by the Government. Apart from the government paid teachers Chivundula receives absolutely no other Government support.

The school is awaiting some help to construct a solid building; they have made 110,000 bricks already in readiness for that but in the meantime the pupils are taught in temporary classrooms made of kokwe panels (split bamboo) with makeshift seating and blackboards.



**Chivundula's classrooms showing the makeshift walls and seating in classroom 2.**





**The main classroom at Chivundula with better blackboard and seating**

### **Chivundula Neighbourhood**

Chivundula Village is a 2 hour drive or 5 hour bicycle trip from Mfuwe and very far from schools, clinics, local council offices and shops. Residents all live by small scale farming and there are no opportunities for employment nearby. The people are very self-sufficient and well organised but with little or no access to the cash economy, affording school fees or medical assistance is very hard. Despite the difficulties the villagers have built their own school and have plans to upgrade and have a brick built school in the near future as well as organise themselves to grow cash crops and improve the nutrition and hygiene standards for the children of the village.

None of these improvements can be made without access to clean, safe and convenient water. Chief Mnkhanya was very happy for Chivundula to have water as he has seen how hard they have worked to try to upgrade conditions in their village already.

Access to water before the borehole was provided was from a nearby seasonal river which stops flowing around July. Thereafter, like so many rural people in the Luangwa Valley, residents have to dig in to the river bed to collect water. The water isn't clean and water borne diseases are common.





## Chief Mnkhanya

His Own Palace  
Mnkhanya  
Malambo District  
Mfuwe, Zambia

Markus Wenger, President  
Schulprojekte Sambia  
Spychertenstrasse 39 b  
3652 Hiltterfingen  
Switzerland

9<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Dear Mr Wenger,

This letter serves as my permission for Makolekole Ltd to install a borehole at Chivundula Community School in my Chiefdom.

The Head Teacher together with the Parent Teacher Association of Chivundula Community School will oversee the use and maintenance of the borehole under my supervision.

We wish to thank you sincerely for your interest in our area and for your support of the education and welfare of under-privileged children in this district. We look forward to welcoming you to visit the school sometime in the future.

Yours sincerely,



Honourable Chief Mnkhanya







Everyone enjoys the pump testing



Water borne diseases – a thing of the past with a new borehole



Another Makolekole Community School Borehole and a productive veggie garden installed in 2017 – this picture shows a productive vegetable garden improving the economy and nutrition of the village.

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.