



Completion Report

ZIM-CHC-PHA-D01 Phakamani, Zimbabwe
Reporting Period: September 2016 – June 2017

Water from the Dry - Zimbabwe

Budget: \$17,710 – fully funded.

Update:

This project was designed to provide the community of Phakamani with three water solutions and hygiene education. The community was heavily involved in the planning and construction and installation to encourage a sense of ownership and empowerment so as to maintain the infrastructure over the long-term. We liked the fact that the project created three separate water sources using different technology to harvest water. The water sources are spread throughout the town and were chosen based on hydrology surveys. Much of the labour was provided by the community.

A training session for the community.



This project was first reported on in July – December 2015 when the extraction dry-river bed rower pump was installed and the water harvesting roof and tanks were completed. The pump works during 6-8 months of the year, but is unable to reach the very low water table during the dry (or drought) times which illustrates the wisdom of multiple water solutions. It is hoped one day that the new roof will also provide a space for a four-room school. In the meantime, it provides a shelter and a much-used place for the community to gather.

In the January – August 2016 report, water tanks were built and consequently filled during the wet season. The water is carefully used by the community to make it last over the dry season. The third and final water solution was the installation of a hand-dug well in an area of the community furthest from the river and approximately 2.4 km from the harvesting roof. This took place between September – November 2016 after an extensive search for people with well construction skills. Working alongside the local partners, this person provided technical oversight and training for a small five-man team of diggers. This had the added bonus of providing paid work for the locals and the opportunity to learn a new skill.

A water management committee was formed early in the project to manage the new water infrastructure and the ensure maintenance and plan for future interventions. The community has also been encouraged to form a school committee to pursue opportunities around education. Around 1,500 people have been helped through this project.

Our partners conducted an end-of-project survey in May 2017 to measure the impact the project interventions have had in the community. It said, *“The results showed a decrease in time to fetch water and a reduced incidence of water borne diseases due to the new water points namely, the protected well and the water harvesting structure. There has been a marked impact in terms of water supply as 51% used to get water from the river but now only 16% are still practicing this. Less time (30 minutes to 1 hours) is taken to fetch water whereas in previous times it would take up to 6 hours to get water.”*



Ngwenya (pictured) said, *“The water challenge was so intense that I used to go to the water point at 2 am and return around midday the following day. This was dangerous, especially for women on their own. In addition, the neighbours would send their dogs on us if they thought we were stealing their water. I have saved money in transport costs and have a safe place to collect water. I am so thankful!”*

And we are so thankful to you for helping people like Ngwenya!