



Completion Report

SWZ-OPH-GFM-D01

Reporting Period: May 15 to October 16

Germ Free Me

Budget: \$8,700 – fully funded!

Update:

We are excited to report on the completion of the “Germ Free Me” project. This project built a new toilet block for girls in a poor community school in Siteki in Swaziland. As well as providing four more toilets for the girls, our partner also conducted hygiene training at the school, utilising song and dance to teach the children the importance of clean hands. This teaching method also trained the school teachers in methods of helping students learn beyond simple rote learning.



A class preparing to sing their hand washing song



The winning song

This project was beset with delays. A previous report mentioned delays caused by prioritising building new classrooms, but once this was resolved, more delays set in. The location of the toilet block caused tension in the wider community. Once this was resolved, the chosen site was found to be solid rock. This required the use of a digger to put in the pit latrines.* Drought caused further delays, as water was not available for building.

However, our partner persevered and the secure toilet block was finally completed in October. Earlier in March the entire school had participated in a competition to write a song and dance about correct handwashing techniques. Each class performed their song at a school assembly, and a winning class was chosen. When Natasha was in Siteki in October she heard the winning song from two of the young men in that class – it was a lot of fun!

Not only will these toilets provide a safe and clean environment for girls, enabling them to attend school even when menstruating, but building the toilets and creating songs has increased the morale of both students and parents. The parents were heavily involved in building the toilets, and were encouraged by having someone from outside take such an interest in their school.

While the project is now complete, the results will continue to be felt, with improved health, increased self-esteem and improved school attendance. Thank you for making this possible.



The toilet block

*This increased the cost of the toilets, and our partner found additional funds elsewhere for this.