

Since 2004 Village Water has supported safe water, hygiene and sanitation promotion for more than 200,000 people in rural Zambia. In the areas we work 49% of people still lack safe water. Most people use water from unprotected scoop holes or rivers for drinking, cooking and washing. Rural sanitation is even worse 7 in 10 Zambians practice open defecation as they lack basic facilities. Eye and skin infections are common and diarrhoea, preventable and easily treatable when people know how, still kills 10 children under five every day.

### The Village Water Way

Safe water alone does not reduce common diseases: it is an integrated approach of improving hygiene, sanitation and water quality in villages, schools and health centres; wherever people spend their day that really makes the difference.



*The water source in Kalawina Village, Western Province, Zambia.*

We start with hygiene education to encourage people to change their habits to reduce diseases. Communities are then shown how to build simple, low-cost, low-technology sanitation facilities, using freely available materials, meaning everyone, including the poorest can participate. Once a village is open defecation free and every household has a latrine with a hand washing point, we will fund the construction of a protected water point, manually drilled by local teams we have trained.

Each community sets-up a village committee to oversee activities and mobilise a fund for spare parts for future maintenance. The community is trained in basic pump maintenance and how to identify issues, given a simple toolkit and linked to a specialist well drilling team, in case of problems: this system ensures the pump does not break down.

### Delivering lasting change

Simply counting the number of water-points installed tells us nothing about how lives are changing. To be confident that our activities lead to lasting benefits, we've developed an innovative monitoring system, gathering data such as household health surveys, GPS, pump functionality, water quality and sanitation facilities on mobile phones.

This data allows us to see improvements in community health as they happen as well as the cumulative benefits overtime. Latest data for 45 villages supported between 2015 and 2016 shows a 96% reduction in diarrhoea and a 90% reduction in girls' school absenteeism.

Recent follow-up visits to 525 villages supported between 2004 and 2018 found that 94% of water points were functioning (we have plans in place to fix the other 4%). The industry standard for functioning water-points in rural sub-Saharan Africa is 60-70%. We believe it is our pump maintenance system and commitment to sustainability that makes the difference.



*Mercy Munalula washes her hand at tippy tap*

The communities we support have gone on to invested in their children's education, market gardens, livestock and solar panels for income generation once their health has improved.

### One Village at Time:

From April 2019 to March 2020 Village Water aim to support 20 communities and schools in Western Province, Zambia with hygiene education, sanitation and safe water.

A grant of £4600 will support an entire community of around 185 people with Village Waters full programme of hygiene education, sanitation and safe water. Training the community in basic repairs and providing a tool kit ensure the water pumps remain functioning for many years to come.

**Thank you for your consideration**