

Drill boreholes for 1000 villagers in Malawi

Summary

Imagine two peri-urban villages located in the tropics with lots of rainfall and plenty of underground fresh water reserves, yet its people depend on polluted river water for all domestic purposes including drinking. Two neighboring villages of Chikuni and Ndodani are typical examples of villages surrounding Lilongwe City— Malawi's Capital— where women and girls wake up early in the morning to queue or walk long distances in search of water resources. The two villages have been neglected because of unresolved boundary between city and district council: the two villages are neither in the urban peripheral nor the rural section of the city. Providing clean water by drilling a borehole in each village is vital for the residents to live a healthy and decent life free from waterborne diseases. Donate now.

Challenge

Chikuni and Ndodani Villages lie in the outskirts of Lilongwe City whereby there is lack of a clear-cut demarcation in terms of development mandate for organizations targeting Lilongwe City or Lilongwe Rural. Organization operating in Lilongwe City consider the two villages to be within the jurisdiction of Lilongwe Rural while those operating in Lilongwe Rural regard those villages to be under Lilongwe City. In this way, these villages have been neglected as far as development initiatives are concerned, including the supply of clean and portable water.

In 2010, Chikuni and Ndodani Villages had secured a borehole through the district development fund. Some years down the line, the available borehole broke down due to attenuated accessories and lack of financial resources to procure spare parts. This situation has prevailed for nearly 5 years (since 2015) and has led villagers in Chikuni and Ndodani to use unclean water fetched from a river/stream and other unprotected shallow wells. Unfortunately, unpatriotic residents use the same streams as dumping sites or landfills for domestic wastes. As a result, villagers are susceptible to water borne diseases and the long hours spent on collecting water resources overburden women and girls who usually do domestic chores and productive work concurrently.

Solution

The requested grant will be used to: 1) drill two boreholes and repair one broken-down borehole; 2) improve sanitation around the borehole sites by constructing good drainage systems; and 3) set up a revolving fund for borehole repairs/maintenance. Drilling 2 boreholes— one in each village— and repairing an old abandoned borehole will improve people's health (400 women, 200 men and 400 children), reduce their time-burden, and re-allocate labour to most productive activities e.g. agriculture, women-managed businesses and concentration on education for the girls. Strengthening the Village Development Committees through capacity building in both villages will ensure long term sustainability of the water project. Village Development Committees will take a leading role in managing the boreholes. A modest monthly fee will be paid by each household and the funds will be used for maintenance of the boreholes.

Long term impact

The project aims at making clean portable water accessible to all and is in line with Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and the Malawi Growth and Development Goals (MGDS III). Water

Development and Climate Change Adaptation is one of the six priority areas highlighted in the MGDS. Thus, easing access to clean water will facilitate reduction/prevention of water borne diseases and ultimately empower women economically as they will spend less time fetching for water. The prospects for self-employment are high as over 400 women will enjoy a good bill of health, create enough time to manage their entrepreneurial activities because they will spend less time fetching for water from faraway places, and girls will concentrate on their education. It is also in line with National Gender policy that calls for the empowerment of women, youths and vulnerable groups. Indirectly, the project will facilitate increased self-esteem among the villagers for successfully implementing a project that addresses their aspirations. From a governance perspective, the project will lead to the strengthened village development committees capable of managing the future projects in these villages.