

»» Project Information

Implemented by:



Water and Sanitation – Zambia

Wells promise future

It is not only during services that the church in Mfuwe is busy. Women and children fill colourful plastic canisters at the tap of the new well. By hand pump they bring the water up from a depth of almost four meters. The pump is clean and surrounded by brickwork, while a drain and soak away pit ensure that no puddles form.

Context

If you have seen the Victoria Falls on the Zambezi or the Kalambo Falls on Lake Tanganyika, you may not believe that Zambia has a water problem. Although the country is one of the most fertile in Sub-Saharan Africa, clean water is precious, especially in the east at the border with Malawi and Mozambique. Only half of the rural population has access to hygienically safe drinking water. The rest rely on pools that are created during the rainy season, or on old wells, many of which are in a bad condition. There are no fences to prevent livestock from contaminating the standpipes with their faeces, while the drains are clogged up with sand. Only one third of the rural population in the Eastern Province has proper sanitation. Water-borne diseases are spreading. In some 41 % of the households, at least one child under the age of five suffers from diarrhea.

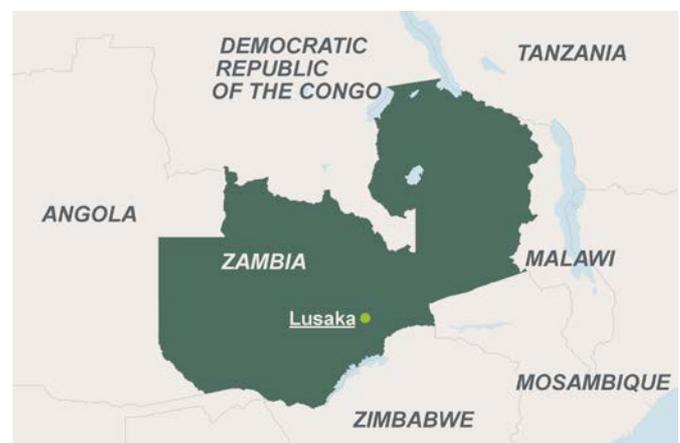
Nursing care is traditionally a task for the women in a family, as well as fetching water. Up to two hours every day, women and girls drag their canisters through dust or mud, depending on the time of year. This means they lose valuable time that they could otherwise use more efficiently by going to school or carrying out paid work. The lack of water precludes them from earning money or getting an education, and prevents Zambian society from pushing forward with gender equality.

Project approach

The government in Lusaka has adopted a national development plan for the water sector involving international development partners, including Germany. KfW Development Bank plays a role in implementing this programme with a whole range of projects. One such project is "Rural Water Supply - Eastern Province (Phase III)", which is situated in one of the poorest regions of the country.

The project office in the provincial capital of Chipata manages a team of 60 local workers – administrators, hydrogeologists, plumbers, bricklayers and drivers. They are building or rehabilitating 520 wells in the pro-

Project name	Water Supply and Sanitation Programme / Rural Water Supply Eastern Province Phase III
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Country/Region	Zambia (Eastern Province)
Lead executing agency	Eastern Water and Sewerage Company (EWSC)





Clean water – a valuable commodity. Source: KfW, photographer: Eva Mährle.

programme region according to a proven model: the best location is selected based on the analysis of a hydrogeological expert before the construction team drills the hole, installs the pump and creates the drain and soak-away pit.

The village population is involved right from the start. They suggest suitable locations for the wells, strengthen access roads and obtain sand and stone for the brick walled border. Many wells are drilled in the vicinity of schools and medical centers, which are also the preferred locations for sanitary facilities. The work does not always run smoothly. During the rainy season the access roads become muddy trails, and if the drilling team hits granite, then a new location has to be found. The construction work is supported by campaigns to raise awareness about health and hygiene. Teams travel in minibuses to the villages and explain why it is important to clean the canisters after each trip to the well, not to keep water at home in open containers and to boil water before preparing food. Preventing HIV/AIDS is another key topic at information events. Municipal water committees act as facilitators. They also set the water tariffs and maintain the wells. Half of the committee members should be women because experience shows that they are particularly motivated and help to strengthen awareness within the village community for taking responsibility to improve one's own living standards.

The programme is supported with a total of EUR 8 million. EUR 6.6 million is earmarked for investments and EUR 1.4 million for technical assistance in connection with the programme. The Zambian state is providing EUR 0.5 million. The money is used directly for the benefit of the local people. They gain in several re-

spects: time, because now it takes only half an hour for each family to fetch water every day; income, because they have new opportunities to find paid employment; and future, because the spread of water-borne diseases is contained and reduces the level of infant mortality.

Impact

The current programme reaches up to 100,000 people in the districts of Mambwe, Katete, Petauke, Chadiza, Chama, Lundazi, Chipata and Nyimba. As part of the water project, KfW Development Bank is funding the construction and restoration of 520 drilled and dug wells. Earlier phases provided a clean supply of water for roughly 488,000 people in the Eastern Province. Water that does not smell and is not murky, – and does not make you ill.



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