



Zambia Report

2022



Mtendere Community

SHENENDEHOWA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Mtendere Community, Zambia

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The Mtendere community was plunged into water crisis after the hand pump on the residents' well broke down. Unable to access the water in the well, residents had to turn to other water sources, many of which were far from the community. The women who collected water for their families often spent hours of each day walking to these distant water points and carrying heavy containers back to their homes. It was exhausting, back-breaking work.

With so few options, the community members had to make use of whatever water they were able to find, even if was unsafe for drinking and cooking. Unfortunately, most of time, the water was unsafe and residents suffered the consequences. Diarrhea, dysentery, and other water-related illnesses were common in the community. Suffering from these illnesses made it difficult for the adults to work, further entrenching them in their poverty. If the children were sick, they couldn't attend school, putting their futures at risk.

Melody Zulu lives in the Mtendere community. She and her neighbors knew they were caught in a vicious cycle of scarcity, need, and ill health that they couldn't escape on their own.

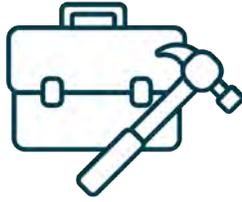
Melody explained that she and the other women “used to walk long distances just to fetch water from the nearby stream. The water wasn't safe for the community at large.”



The community's well has fallen into disrepair.



Now that their borehole has been rehabilitated, the community has safe water once more!



Construction Details

Pump type:	hand pump
Project type:	rehabilitation
Depth of well:	50 m
Coliform bacteria:	absent



Community Details

Previous water source:	stream
Location:	rural community
Total users:	250
Main water collectors:	women

The community knew it needed a safe and easily-accessible water source. When the residents heard about Living Water International's work in the area, they knew they had found the answer to their water crisis. Living Water Zambia responded to the community's need by coming to rehabilitate the existing well!

The staff returned to the community to get the existing borehole up and running. They flushed out the borehole to remove any loose sedimentary rock, cased it with PVC, formed a sanitary gravel pack, and treated the water. Once they tested the water to ensure it was safe to consume, they mounted a new hand pump and handle and poured a concrete channel to wick away excess water.

The Living Water staff also helped the Mtendere Village community establish sustainability practices to help ensure a future of safe water access. The team helped the community select a well caretaker, who will oversee the care and maintenance of the well. Living Water will stay in contact with the community to support sustainability efforts and monitor the well's functionality.



The well caretaker plays a vital role in safe water sustainability.



Community members participate in hygiene lessons facilitated by Living Water.

In order to help the Mtendere community members understand how to use the safe water you gave them as a means of improving their health, the Living Water staff held a hygiene and sanitation promotion activity. These interactive sessions included lessons on proper handwashing, disease, how to prevent parasitic infections, and how to transport and store water safely.

Throughout the water project, the Living Water team also shared the good news of God's love and his offer of *living water* to everyone. They used the story of the Samaritan woman at the well found in John 4 to underline this invitation during an evangelistic service held by the well.

Melody and her neighbors are excited to have safe water in their community again. They know that safe water changes everything! They can now envision a future that isn't marred by thirst or need. They take pride in their ability to implement community-driven solutions to prevent their well from falling into disrepair.

Thank you for giving water, for life, in Jesus' name!

Your Impact

Shenendehowa United Methodist Church, your gift of safe water has changed everything for the Mtendere community. Thanks to you, the residents now have safe water in abundance right outside of their homes. They no longer have to rely on distant and unsafe water sources or fear not having one of life's most basic necessities. Your gift has provided them with the means to escape reaction-based patterns of living. Sustaining their rehabilitated well has instilled hope and confidence in the community members. Your gift also serves as a reminder of God's great love for each person in the community, evidence that he cares both for their physical and spiritual needs.