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1. Purpose

Water Works is committed to reducing the prevalence of waterborne disease in rural Malawi by supporting communities gain access to safe drinking water, hygienic sanitation facilities and improved hygiene practices. Our approach is not to give handouts, but to empower people to meet their needs. We do this by: promoting improved hygiene awareness and practice; assisting households to construct latrines and hand-washing systems, and supporting communities to install, manage and maintain simple, innovative and sustainable water pump technologies.

2. Achievements to Date

Since 2009, Water Works has assisted 100 Malawian villages to construct and maintain water points, providing safe drinking water for 17,800 people; supported 3,800 families to build hygienic latrines; helped a primary school with 300 students to build two blocks of latrines, and run hygiene awareness sessions for 5,900 people. Our household surveys have found that the projects have helped to dramatically reduce the percentage of children under five suffering from diarrhoea in the previous 2 weeks from 14.5% to 4%.

Locations of the Water Works Points

Water Works focuses its programmes in the Traditional Authority (TA) of Bwatalika (formerly demarcated as TA Malili), about 20km west of Malawi’s capital city of Lilongwe. The area receives little assistance from the government or other NGOs despite, prior to our intervention, over half of the villages not having access to safe drinking water and most households not having a latrine.
3. Activities and Achievements in 2018

Water Works assisted 8 villages to meet their water and sanitation needs, rehabilitated 4 water points and carried out repairs for another 10 water pumps.

The project took place over a period of 5 months from May to September 2018.

3.1. The Project in Numbers

- 798 beneficiaries reached
- 8 village hygiene programmes completed
- 533 people attending hygiene sessions
- 197 latrines fully constructed
- 39 latrines constructed for vulnerable households
- 9 latrines with a raised pedestal constructed for household with impaired mobility
- 197 hand washing systems constructed
- 8 villages verified as Open Defecation Free
- 8 water points installed
- 4 water points rehabilitated
- 10 water pumps repaired
- 8 water committees trained on repair service and financial management
- 8 water committees trained on water pump repair

3.2. The Hygiene Programme

Water Works continued a partnership with the Chitedze District of the Ministry of Health to engage a team of six health surveillance assistants (HSA) to run the hygiene programme.

Hygiene sessions were completed in all 8 villages with 533 villagers attending. We introduced an attendance register to ensure that each household receiving a latrine has a representative at each hygiene session. We improved the programme by appointing an HSA to oversee and quality assure the training and spacing the sessions out over a 4 week period. The aim of the programme is to shift behaviour from bad to good hygiene practices. For example, we have found that before the hygiene training, nearly half of the group never wash their hands.

At the end of the hygiene programme a community action plan, allocating tasks to various working groups, is formulated, and a health committee of 8 members, with equal numbers of men and women, is elected to lead the action plan and ensure that the good practices continue after the Water Works projects end.
The picture shows a hygiene session in Mwenderuta on the subject of "Who does what?". The three boys are holding up pictures of a man, woman and a couple and the group assign everyday tasks to each one. Lo and behold, the women do nearly all the work! We are trying to encourage the sharing of tasks. In the future, we would like to engage a woman to join our team of builders, who, at the moment, are all men.

Success Story – the village of Kalinda

Life has been very hard for the village of Kalinda. Despite being close to the capital city of Lilongwe, the villagers have never had access to clean water. They draw water from unprotected wells (see photo), which were dug decades ago. It is not safe to drink. The village chief told us that "Other NGOs came with promises to help but nothing happened". They also lack hygienic sanitation with 12 of the 23 households not having even an 'unimproved' latrine. Now people in Kalinda are happy that Water Works has come to their rescue and the risk of water
borne diseases, such as cholera, will be greatly reduced. They elected a water committee to plan alongside Water Works how to bring about and sustain good hygiene practices.

3.3. Construction of Latrines and Hand Washing Systems

Following the development of community action plans in the hygiene programme, two teams of builders spent five weeks in each of the 8 villages assisting with their implementation. This included the construction of 197 latrines and hand washing systems.

The project implementation was community led with the entire community mobilised to take collective responsibility for their village, as it is emphasised that if one person continues bad practices, it could affect the health of everybody. To further increase ownership, the communities were responsible for providing the materials they can, such as mud bricks for the latrine walls and timber and grass for the roofs. Water Works assisted by supplying materials that the communities cannot provide themselves, such as cement and quarry for the concrete sanitation platform. Community groups were formed and assigned responsibilities, for example digging the latrine pits, making and collecting bricks and sand, constructing the latrine sanitation platforms etc. This
collective approach to latrine construction ensured that vulnerable households unable to construct their own latrine were assisted. 39 such households were identified.

We also provided additional support to ensure that the sanitation facilities are suitable for those with special needs. This included the construction of 9 latrines with raised pedestals to make the experience of using a latrine more comfortable for beneficiaries with physical disabilities. However, many households with disabled family members also have young children that perhaps have difficulties climbing onto the raised seat. To address this, our senior construction builder Kingston Tsamba fashioned steps that the younger beneficiaries can use. See photo.

For each latrine, we taught the communities to construct a simple hand washing facility with locally available materials. Villagers decorate the latrines in various styles, as shown in the pictures. We particularly like the latrine with a "sponge" vine growing around it, the fruit of which is used for washing and the foliage also serves as a roof.
3.4. Construction of the Water Points

We supported the eight communities with a population of 798 to protect their water resource with a Water Works hand pump. The project implementation was community-led with the community-elected water committee making the decisions, from the location of the water point to the date of the pump inauguration. A particular focus was placed on the opinions, experience and expertise of women as they are usually responsible for household water collection, sanitation and hygiene. This not only promotes gender equality, but ensures that the water points are constructed based on the main users’ needs.

The well is dug to a 4m water column depth, which minimises the risk of the wells drying in times of drought. We construct a well apron and drain to provide a strong foundation, protect the well from surface run off and direct used water away from the well. Before the water pump is installed, the concrete well rings are scrubbed and a solution with an approximate 200ppm chlorine concentration is left overnight to shock clean the well.

Following the installation of the water pump, the water committees were given a two-day training course on the management and maintenance of the pump. Part of the training included setting up a system of payments from the village water users to raise money for the pumps’ maintenance. The payments are approximately 150 Kwacha (16 pence) per household per month. The committees were trained how to use an accounting book and provided with a money box to keep the money safely.

Village Story – Zakaliya

The chief of the village Zakaliya told us that people have been drinking dirty water from the well for decades. They could not afford to pay upfront for boreholes. The chief said, “I am happy that we have our own pump, which has been given to us for free and very beautiful toilets. I promise that we will look after this development wholeheartedly and make sure monthly contributions are made for its sustainability”.

Yohanne Siliyako, who is the chief’s son-in-law, told us about a terrible accident when he went to defecate in the bush. He was attacked by wild animals and fell when running away. He is now disabled. “I can’t walk”, he told us, “I can’t support my family just because I went to the bush to defecate”.

Mr Silyako has 12 children and 34 grandchildren. He is now happy that his children will be safe since they have water and toilets in their village. When a child died of diarrhoea, they would suspect each other of witchcraft. Such quarrels in the village will now be history.
3.7. Water Pump Rehabilitation and Sustainability

Water Works has previously constructed water points in 92 villages. Ten villages are decommissioned for various reasons including some villages having free access to another pump nearby and some have supply of piped water from the Water Board. We conducted a water point sustainability survey in May and found that 49 of the remaining 82 water pumps were functioning. Most of the water points not functioning had been installed between 2010 and 2014 and had either become dry or had been fitted with our Alinafe pump, which has proved less reliable than the rope pump we now use.

Major rehabilitation, involving re-digging and relining the well and replacing the Alinafe pump with a new rope pump, was completed in four villages. We carried out minor repairs in 10 villages, of which 6 were recorded as not functioning in the May survey. Thus, we increased the number of functioning water points to 59.

We are moving towards a model of self-supply, where we are trying to encourage the villagers to invest in their own water and sanitation solutions, rather than rely on external actors. Accordingly, the villages were asked to pay 1500mwk (£1.60) for each household (excluding vulnerable households) as a contribution towards the cost of the water point. This comes with a guarantee for the pump for one year. We achieved the target of collecting 236,500 mwk (about £250) from 8 villages. This money goes towards subsidising the Water Works repair service and kick-starts the monthly water collection system described above.

3.7. Sustaining Good Hygiene Practice

Following a recommendation in the Independent Evaluation carried out last year, we have given a greater focus on sustaining gains made in the hygiene programme by improving the delivery of the training so that good practice becomes more embedded (See 3.2). We have also carried out a household KAP survey of a sample of villages, which have been assisted over the previous 5 years, in order to find out whether good hygiene practice had been maintained. The sample consisted of 67 households in 18 villages, and found that hygiene has generally been maintained to a reasonable standard:

- 60 (90%) out of 67 interviewees thought the water was safe for drinking
- 56 (84%) store water in a covered container
- 17 out of the 18 villages reported to have a functioning water committee
- 56 (84%) households have a latrine, nearly all of which are in good condition
- Only one person still regularly practised open defecation
- 21 people sometimes defecated in the open, of whom 17 dug a hole and covered
- 68% takes less than 15 minutes to collect water; 90% less than 30 minutes
- Nearly all washed their hands after defecating and before eating
- 60 (90%) used soap or ash to wash hands
- Only 6 households had diarrhoea within previous week
- 3 children of 30 under 5 had diarrhoea within previous week

We fed back the results to the health surveillance assistants so that they are aware of and can rectify any slippage in good hygiene practice. One key area of concern is the small number of hand washing facilities still in use. In more recent years, this will have improved since we have introduced a simple handwashing system using 5 litre bottles rather than providing a plastic bucket, which is liable to
get stolen. However, we will be asking the health surveillance assistant from each village to monitor the continuing use of the handwashing system.

4. Future Plans

We will prioritise the development of a repair service that will maintain and keep in good repair all water points constructed by Water Works, which, by the end of 2019, will number over one hundred still in use. This will be partly financed by the villages' water funds. We have successfully supported communities to establish village saving schemes, including making an initial one off payment, which will contribute towards the establishment of the repair service. The significance of this funding is not the amount, which is small in terms of the overall funding of the project, but that it will help ensure the maintenance of the water pumps, when WW is no longer operating in the area.

We will continue to concentrate our intervention in the area served by the Chitedze Health Centre and the neighbouring Mbwatalika Health Centre, where there is a total of 263 villages. Unlike Likuni, which has been connected to the piped water network by the Lilongwe Water Authority, over half these villages, prior to Water Works intervention in Chitedze, did not have a safe source of drinking water. The criteria for inclusion will continue to be the lack of access to a potable water resource, poor standard and low coverage of latrines, high community demand for improvement and willingness to contribute and take ownership of the project. By 2019, we will have assisted 90 villages in this district. The number of new villages assisted will depend on the amount of funding raised.

In keeping with our commitment to counter the effects of climate change, we intend to plant trees in each village. This will also offset the burning of wood to make fired bricks for the latrine shelters. Villagers will be encouraged to plant trees by the water point, so that any run off water can be used for irrigation, and in any old latrine pits, as the ground will be fertile.
5. Structure, Governance & Management

Charity Name
Water Works

Charity Number
Charity Commission (England and Wales) - 1158206.

Scottish Charity Regulator – SCO40514

NGO Board of Malawi – NGO/1/16/002

Registration Address
Water Works
4 Elmswood Gardens,
Nottingham NG5 4AW

Management Committee

Chair: Suzanna van Schaick – extensive clinical experience as a doctor, varied educational and teaching experience and insights from Voluntary Service Overseas.

Charity Director: Simon Cohen – founder of the charity; experienced in managing WASH programmes for NGOs in various countries including Angola, Sudan, Mozambique, Turkey and Nepal.

Treasurer: Mike Wilkins – worked as a director with two UK charities and as a grant-maker with the National Lottery Charities Board.

Board Member: Michael Lee – Head of Service for County Council, specialising in research, evaluation and data processing – before taking early retirement.

Board Member: Linda Chisale – from Malawi and worked as project assistant for Water Works for two years – now working in property management San Francisco.

Board Member: Patrick McMahon – completed the Masters programme in Water and Environmental Management in 2017 at the Water Development and Engineering Centre, Loughborough University (WDEC) and has experience working in WASH projects in Malawi.

Board Member: Ian Smout – a chartered civil engineer with more than 40 years working on water engineering and management in developing countries - before retirement, was at Loughborough University since 1987, where he became director of WDEC.

Board Member: Amanda Henning – co-opted onto the Board in April 2019 - has been working in Malawi for over 3 years, leading and supporting public health initiatives

Former Chair: Tim Bell - It is with immense sadness that we have to announce that Tim Bell died in September 2018. Tim stepped down from his position as Chair at the AGM in June, owing to uncertainty because of his illness. He remained committed to Water Works and even nominated us as one of two charities he wanted friends and family to support in his memory.
Attendees of Management Committee Meetings

Business Development Manager: Jeffrey Cohen – has assisted in managing the programme in Malawi since 2013. He has wide experience of managing projects in the health service and voluntary sector.

Programme Manager: Peter Phiri – from Malawi, appointed in April 2019, has worked in a project management role on a range of development projects and programmes in rural and urban WASH, infrastructure development covering transport and irrigation and labour-intensive community development programmes.

Minute Secretary: Lesley Cohen – volunteer. She has visited the project in Malawi several times.

Governing Document

The charity is an unincorporated association whose purposes and administration arrangements are set out in its constitution, which was adopted on 08th May 2009 (and amended 17th July 2014). The charity was granted charitable status by OSCR on 20th May 2009 and became registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales on 11th August 2014. It registered with the NGO Board of Malawi on 30th May 2016.

Appointment of Trustees and Management

Membership of the management committee is open to any person who wishes to support the aims and activities of the association. Under the constitution, there must be a minimum of three and no more than eight elected trustees. The trustees were elected at the Annual General Meeting held on 4th June, 2018 in Nottingham.

The trustees are responsible for the strategic direction and governance of the charity, whilst the charity’s projects are developed and implemented by the charity director, programme manager and field officers. The charity director and programme manager attend the trustee meetings to discuss progress and development.

Public benefit statement

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission’s general guidance on public benefit, ‘Charities and Public Benefit’.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf:

Suzanna van Schaick

Chair
Date: