



Mhembere Primary School, Zimbabwe

PRJ- 60472

Situated in the northeastern corner of Zimbabwe, Mhembere Primary School is a second home to many of its 500 students. But for years the students arrived at the school not knowing whether they'd have drinking water for the day. Years prior, the school's administration dug a well by hand on the school grounds in the hope that it could provide for the growing number of pupils. However, they didn't have the resources to seal the well, leaving it open to contamination from the elements. As years passed and the hand-dug well began to run dry, the students and teachers were unable to predict whether they'd have water on any given day.

The community united together to search for a solution to allow their children to learn safely and comfortably. They first employed a single community member to fetch water via an ox-drawn cart from a nearby water source. However, this time-consuming process rarely provided enough water for students and faculty members, let alone the community at large. What's more, the school often lacked the funds to pay their water collector, sowing division among neighbors. At its lowest point, the school was forced to shut down for a month due to sickness and lack of potable water.

Mhembere Primary School's administrators witnessed the harm brought about by the water crisis—illnesses spread, students lost valuable time in the classroom, and missed out on being kids. They knew they needed a long-term solution to provide better lives for their children.



This hand-dug well used to serve Mhembere Primary School.



Ms. Motsi, a teacher at the school, celebrates the new elevated tank.

month because we couldn't provide safe water on campus. We used to pay a community member to fetch water for the students using an ox-drawn cart. However, this stressed the school budget, and they sometimes failed to pay residents for their services."

Ms. Motsi and five other teachers were determined to find a solution for their students. They learned about Living Water's work in a neighboring community and felt hopeful about overcoming the water crisis for the first time in years. When the Living Water staff visited the school, they decided a piped water system, complete with an elevated tank for water storage, would best serve the school's needs. Finally, the teachers and students could rest assured knowing the school had a sustainable water source.

Now, students can trust that their physical, emotional, and intellectual needs will be met while at school. No longer will they worry about drinking contaminated water or becoming sick. By securing their health, students can focus on their bright futures! Safe water truly changes everything.



Students gather in the classroom to participate in sanitation and hygiene lessons.