



Malasha Village, Zambia

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Residents of the Malasha Village community battled a dire water crisis. Women and children spent hours each day walking to and from an unprotected hand-dug well to collect contaminated water on behalf of their families. “The water was a dark color, smelled bad, and tasted worse,” shared Beatrice Shakabosha, a 39-year-old farmer. “It was common for people in our community to suffer from waterborne diseases. Being constantly sick made life challenging.”

Ongoing illness led to missed work, absenteeism, and a poor quality of life. Rising financial pressures and declining physical health took a toll on residents' mental and emotional well-being. Additionally, inadequate sanitation practices, such as open defecation, exposed children to serious infections. Young girls were particularly vulnerable, lacking the resources needed to safely manage menstruation. Most often, children missed school altogether.

Local leaders knew there had to be a sustainable solution to this crisis, and they were determined to find it. The moment they heard about Living Water International's work, they reached out for support. Living Water Zambia responded by drilling a borehole and installing a hand pump only a short walk from residents' homes. The team also equipped residents with the sanitation and hygiene skills they need to lead healthy, productive lives.

“Now, safe water has changed everything,” Beatrice added, “Waterborne diseases will no longer be a constant part of life. We will have more time and better health.”



Beatrice shares her community's experience living through the water crisis with a Living Water team member.



The Living Water staff holds sanitation and hygiene workshops, equipping residents with key skills like building and using latrines with fly-proof covers.