Atulange Kunembo Community School, Zambia

From Sickness to Success: How Access to Safe Water Changed Students' Futures

"For many years, our school struggled with severe water shortages," said Emmanuel Mbumbule, teacher at Atulange Kunembo Community School.

Every day, students had to walk more than a mile to collect water from an unprotected, hand-dug well. By the time they returned to the classroom, students were exhausted from the journey. Although they did their best to stay focused, the long, tiring trips made it difficult to concentrate on their lessons.

"The situation was very difficult because students were forced to use dirty water," Emmanuel explained. "Many of them became sick. Waterborne diseases were common. It was painful to see children miss school because of illnesses that could be prevented."

Then, one day, everything changed. After a community member attended an envisioning training led by Living Water International, they returned to their community, excited to share about what they had learned.

"The community member informed us about the work that Living Water International was doing in communities. That is when we decided to reach out to them for help," Emmanuel said.

Living Water Zambia drilled a borehole and installed a hand pump, providing easy access to safe water at the school all day long.

"For us, having safe water is a huge miracle and a great success," Emmanuel gratefully said. "Our students are now happy, healthy, and are able to learn in a better environment."



Students walk long distances every day to retrieve water from an unprotected hand-dug well.



This student is grateful to have easy access to safe water on the school's grounds, helping him to thrive in the classroom.