

Just a Drop is pleased to provide the final report for the project BAC are supporting in Zambia, at Tara Primary School.

There, we have constructed much-needed latrines and provided hygiene education, to the benefit of the 494 children at the school.

The total work completed is:

- Two girls' latrines of five VIP stances each, with two washrooms and one handwashing stand
- One boys' latrine with six stances, urinal block and two handwashing stands
- One teachers' latrine with two stances and one handwashing stand

The latrines are now fully use and built to last, thank you for your support.



Tara Primary School is located around 45km from the town of Kalomo, it's a very rural area, with limited facilities.

Before the project, there were only two functioning latrines for the girls, meaning a ratio of 121 girls for each one, with the boys not much better at one latrine for 79 boys. The government recommendation is a latrine for every 25 girls, so this was far from satisfactory, made worse by the fact that the latrines were old, in a state of disrepair and generally horrible to use. They were so bad as to pose a health risk for the entire school population.

There was a considerable need, then, for the work carried out, which has been completed on time and in budget.

An important element of the project has been the community contribution. They worked hard to dig the latrine pits, and persevered until completion. They also helped making the bricks and provided food and drink for the skilled builders.

It's worth mentioning the bricks that have been used. These are inter-locking bricks, made on site using a specialist press and which requires no firing, so they are very much eco-friendly and the press used can be further utilised across other projects.



To accompany the latrines, comprehensive hygiene training has been delivered. All the students, teachers and parents were involved and the training covered:

- The importance of clean water and how to keep water clean
- Causes of water contamination
- Personal hygiene
- Rubbish disposal
- Good toilet facilities and health problems related to open defecation
- Methods for hand washing

We also educated the community on how to best maintain the facilities provided, meaning that any small repairs can be done and full benefits can be maintained. A new Maintenance Committee has been formed for this and a School Health Club formed, to ensure that positive hygiene behaviours are long-term in nature. The Club will ensure that the latrines are cleaned on a daily basis.



We also delivered a programme of menstrual hygiene at Tara, to all students, boys and girls, as well as the parents and teachers. To include all groups is very important, to increase awareness across the whole community and for teachers to provide ongoing education.

Such training ensures that periods become normalised and taboos diminish, and girls are able to attend schools during their periods and are much less likely to drop out of education altogether.

Reusable pads were provided and distributed, as access to such has been difficult in the past.

The facilities provided will support the training, providing privacy and washrooms for the girls at Tara.



We heard from pupils, parents and teachers at Tara:



Luundu, who is 13 years old said: “Sometimes pupils they don’t have pads to wear when coming to school, we have learned how to take care of our bodies and where we live. The handwashing will protect us from cholera and other diseases. We will have good health in our school. This project is good because it teaches pupils how to take care of our bodies especially in girls we need to take extra care of ourselves during menstruation”.

Catherine is a parent, she said she had learned how to talk to her girls about their hygiene, HIV and teenage pregnancies. She thought it was a good project, which is very helpful for girls and good for teachers to continue to teach.



Mrs Shantumbu Precious is a teacher at Tara Primary. She said:

“It has really helped the school in terms of hygiene and we have enough toilets and it has helped the girls where hygiene is concerned. The change is there especially to the girls this time absenteeism has reduced and the girls are coming to school in numbers ... It will encourage girls to attend school because they will be able to wash and change without difficulties”.



It's clear that the project is already achieving a great deal. Overall, we expect the impact achieved to be considerable:

- 494 children will be healthier
- They will learn in a positive, healthy environment
- Positive hygiene practices will continue into the long-term
- Academic performance will improve
- Importantly, girls will attend school more regularly, with the better sanitation facilities, washroom and menstrual hygiene education
- More children will enrol, as parents see the school has a safe and engaging learning environment – which will attract more government funding and further improve facilities

The project at Nantale School has also started now and we'll look forward to sending updates from there.

Thank you, as ever, for your support for Just a Drop.





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