

Date: 1st April, 2008

To : International co-ordinator

From: Lameck Siamalambo

Subj : **Quarter One (1), 2008 – Narrative Report**

General overview

The increased occurrence of disasters has plagued Zambia in recent months. Floods induced crop failures and challenges to the water purification programme in communities. The shocks have severely weakened the household economy, diminished production stocks, and diverted scarce resources from productive activities to emergency relief. With such a large portion of communities relying on agriculture, productivity failures, like those caused by nature disasters, such as recent floods in Kasaya community, deal a harsh blow to the people. Households have developed coping strategies that include; buying, begging for, drinking unsafe water from any source, and borrowing maize. Although many communities are ravaged with unsafe drinking water and poverty, the search for lasting solutions lies beyond the immediate concern of the crisis. The processes of searching for solutions come from the people, with the answer indigenously rooted, so that the crisis will not return. These efforts led to periods of innovation that created new transformations and new direction. The power and confidence to implement the change has been evident among the people we work with.

As an organization we have learnt how to expand and develop beyond where we are and to progress toward what matters most. We are allowing the building of value-based factors as well as technical factors.

Achievements

S/N	MONTH	SOURCE OF WATER	LITRES OF WATER PURIFIED	NUMBER OF PURIFIERS	# OF DIRECT BENEFICIARIES	AMOUNT OF USER FEES COLLECTED
01	Jan, 08	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Borehole• Dam• Stream	7970	21	996	127,000
02	Feb, 08	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Borehole• Dam• Stream	8665	21	1254	101,000
03	Mar,08	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Borehole• Dam• Stream	9085	21	939	123,500
04	TOTAL		25,720	21	3189	351,000

- 🚧 Supervisory visits to programme areas.
- 🚧 Emergency water purification to flood victims in Kasaya community.
- 🚧 Performance Improvement Review in Mantanyani, Kalamba and Nakowa communities.
- 🚧 Attending to Administrative meetings.
- 🚧 Water committee meeting in Mwapona community.
- 🚧 Community meetings in Kabuyu and Mayoba.

- ✚ Increased responsibility and stewardship.
- ✚ Enhanced skills, knowledge, motivation and self-confidence.

Sustainability

The program's positive effects on the lives of people indicates the impact the program has on the lives of the people and this is enhanced through measures of sustainability such as user fees collection put in place. The others include;

- ✚ Systems for mutual Accountability.
- ✚ Community Self-Empowerment.
- ✚ Commitment to work on the side of the community.
- ✚ Networking and Partnerships.

Identified community needs

- ✚ Improved source of water.
- ✚ Adult Education.
- ✚ Income Generating Activities. These will improve the household food security and reduce diseases such as malnutrition in children.
- ✚ HIV/AIDS awareness programs.

Challenges

- ✚ Demand of water program from far away areas.
- ✚ Lack of bicycles for Focal Point Persons. Failure of solar panels charging battery.
- ✚ Training of water committees.

Conclusion

Despite the challenges faced in the quarter, successes were recorded as seen above. The lives/health of people is being improved.