



Zambia Report

2022



Lubundi Catholic Church
LIVING STONES CHURCHES

Lubundi Catholic Church, Zambia

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The residents of Lubundi suffered from a severe water crisis that harmed individual health and many aspects of civic life. The only water source was a shallow stream. The women and children, the primary water collectors, made long walks from their homes to the stream. They had to wade into the contaminated water to fill their containers and then carry the heavy load home. They knew the water was unsafe to use, but this was the only way for them to fulfill their most basic human need.

Because it was difficult for the residents to obtain enough water for sanitation and hygiene, illnesses spread quickly. Many of these sicknesses were transmitted through the water itself, and so even practicing hygiene did not guarantee that the community members were safe. They were caught in an awful dilemma, trying to decide if using the water was worth depleting their supply.

Lubundi Catholic Church, a central part of community life, experienced diminished attendance because of its lack of access to safe water. The leaders knew something needed to change.

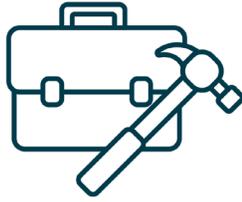
Mwiinga Mweene Kays, a 33-year-old farmer and church member, explained how the water crisis hurt his family and friends. He said, "Before we had this new safe water well, we only used contaminated water. We had a lot of challenges: diarrhea [caused by consuming unsafe water], the distance to the water source, and children missing school because they were fetching water. We also had a reduced number of church members because of lack of water near the church."



The community members collect water from this stream.



The drilling team constructs a new well.



Construction Details

Pump type:	hand pump
Project type:	new simple water system
Depth of well:	50 m
Coliform bacteria:	absent



Community Details

Previous water source:	stream
Location:	rural church
Total users:	210
Main water collectors:	women and children

The church leaders were familiar with work Living Water Zambia had done in other communities in the region. They contacted the staff, making a formal request for help, and Living Water Zambia responded by making a visit to the community. Once the staff arrived, spoke to some residents, and saw the water access situation firsthand, they agreed that a well project was imperative. The residents learned that Living Water could soon complete a new well at the church that would serve the whole community.

The Living Water Zambia staff soon returned to begin work. They drilled until they reached a safe water aquifer 50 meter deep. They flushed the borehole to remove rock debris. Next, the team cased the borehole with PVC piping and a stabilizing gravel pack. Once they installed the pump and platform, the well project was complete!

The Living Water staff wanted to help the community members learn how to manage their safe water sustainably. They therefore taught the residents how to pump their well properly to prevent damage and how to store water in a sanitary way. They also helped the community form a water committee that would oversee the care and upkeep of the well. The committee would remain in communication with Living Water International.



The well is complete!



Mwiinga knows his community is now happier and healthier!

Living Water Zambia also led a sanitation and hygiene promotion activity for the community. The community members learned about germ spread and disease transmission through the use of visual aids. Additionally, they learned how to properly wash their hands with soap and safe water to prevent the spread of illness. The staff also explained how to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and how to avoid contracting parasites.

The team also joined with Lubundi Catholic Church to hold a well dedication ceremony. The participants gave thanks for the new safe water well and commissioned it to the Kingdom of God. The Living Water staff explained how this safe water well that cleanses and sustains its users serves as a reminder of the *living water* of Jesus Christ. This teaching is based on John 4:13-14 (NIV): “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

Your Impact

Living Stones Churches, thank you for blessing this community immeasurably through the gift of safe water. Lubundi Catholic Church is no longer dominated by scarcity and the patterns of rationing and suffering from illness. No one should experience so much stress acquiring their most basic need. Thanks to you, the community members are now confident that they can obtain plenty of safe water that will nourish them instead of harming them. The location of the new well on the grounds of the church also reinforces the church's role as a safe haven for both physical and spiritual vitality.

Yet your gift of safe water not only benefited the community members, but also blessed the Lord. Jesus said in Matthew 25:40b (NIV), "I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink... whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Thank you for giving the gift of safe water, for life, in Jesus' name!