

HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives in Africa, £5 at a time

Rural Education Provision, Zambia



Following the successful build and on-going operation of our two 'adopted' community schools in Zambia's Luangwa Valley, namely **Chitenga Community School** in Matula VAG and **Chinjobvu Community School** in Ncheka VAG, the High Five Club has recently completed the build of our 3rd community school in Mnkhanya Chiefdom. This will help the local community living in this remote, rural area of Zambia alongside the wildlife-rich South Luangwa National Park improve education provision for their youngest children. Children who because of where they were born and the poverty they endure would not otherwise have access to a quality education.

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The youngest children in the Madimba area of Chiutika VAG were being taught in the dry season in simple grass classrooms made by the community out of the natural materials found around them in the bush - and most recently in a dilapidated church during the rainy season as their grass

structure was not rain-proof. Their youngest children were too small to walk to the nearest government school. It wasn't just the distance, but the dangerous wild animals they could potentially meet on the way such as elephant that was preventing them from going to school and getting an education. The community's answer was to set up their own **Madimba Community School** for their early years (Grades 1-4) of primary education.

These 2 simple classrooms catered for 80 children, with community members who had completed secondary school

volunteering their time to teach the children – balancing their exercise books on their knees to write sitting on benches fashioned out of logs. During the rainy season rain breached the classrooms leaving the children wet



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and cold hence their move into a church during the rains sitting on mounds of earth.

After discussions with the traditional leader HRH Chief Mnkhanya and his *Indunas* (respected members of the community who serve as the Chief's advisors) we agreed to come alongside the community and partner with them so they could develop their community school.

At the same time as we set about raising funds, the community began hand moulding thousands of bricks and collected stones and sand from dry river beds in this remote, rural area. The Community Resources Board, Mnkhanya CRB, project managed the build with the invaluable help of 2 community members from the Madimba area who volunteered their time to serve as build supervisors on a day to day basis – Matthews Phiri and Mathews Mwanza.



The **Luena Foundation** who operate out of the USA and Portugal approached us at this time and we shared our aspirations for this community school with their Founders Ryan and Emily Rauch. We

were so thrilled that in a heartbeat they agreed to partner with us in this project to see the children in this rural community develop and prosper. We also received a very generous gift from our friends at **St Peter and St Paul's Church in Shorne, Kent** which we put towards this build. Some personal friends in the Luangwa Valley who run a local water charity there, **Makolekole Foundation**, also agreed to partner with



High Five Club to uplift this school. So in no time at all we had the funds and resources needed to work with the community to uplift education provision for their youngest children.



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The result of our collective efforts is the completion in May 2022 of a fully furnished 2-classroom block brick school with a staff room in-between for the teachers to plan their lessons and carry out the administration work of the school, along with a toilet block and the sinking of a borehole for the provision of safe, clean water.



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It is so encouraging that, as was the case with our first two school builds in Mnkhanya Chiefdom, that the classrooms built exceeded the government of Zambia's own specification – and at **one fifth of the cost!!!!** It is amazing what can be achieved when the funds go directly to the ground and the community manage the build themselves. We have to be honest though and report



that this school build did not happen without great struggles and hardship for all involved, particularly our team here at the High Five Club. Things did not go as planned and it took a super human effort to see this school through to completion – but completed it was albeit 6 months later than originally planned. It is a real testimony to all involved that this school is now open and that despite the odds stacked against us it came in within budget and is our highest quality school construction in Zambia to date!

The Department of Education in Zambia are so impressed with the school that they have committed to supply 1-2 fully-funded, qualified teachers for the school to complement the existing 3 volunteer teachers from the community. Once the government teachers are in place, Mnkhanya CRB will approach the charity **Mary's Meals** to hopefully implement a feeding programme at the school along the lines of the High Five Club's own pioneering School Breakfast Clubs!

Madimba Community School is now catering for the primary education of 100+ pupils from Grades 1-4. A total transformation in the learning environment of these young children.

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High Five Club Support:

Our collective support of **£9,023** has funded the construction of the 2- classroom block with a teachers' staff room/office in between, along with fully equipping each of the two classrooms with locally made desks (20 x 3-seaters in each classroom) and a blackboard, teacher's desk and chair in each. The staff room was also equipped with locally made furniture - 4 tables, 4 chairs and a bookcase. In addition we funded the construction of a block of 4 long-drop toilets for the school – 2 toilets for females and 2 for males. The community made the bricks and collected the sand and stones needed for the build, along with being contracted to supply some of the casual labour. The builder was contracted from the local area and all of the school furniture was hand-made locally providing much needed business for local carpenters.

£2,803 of these funds were from **High Five Club members monthly donations; £2,000** from our loyal friends at **St Peter and St Paul's Church in Shorne, Kent** who have supported us in all of our school build projects in both Zambia and Malawi over the years; the unexpected grant secured from our new friends at **the Luena Foundation** was **\$5,000 (ca. £3,517)**; along with a very generous personal donation from the founders of the Luena Foundation (**the Rauch family**) of **\$1,000 (ca. £703)**.

Additionally **Makolekole Foundation in Zambia** secured the funding for the borehole from one of their own supporters, a Swiss charity called **Schulprojekte Sambia**, and drilled the borehole at the school providing life-giving clean water at a cost of **\$6,500**.

What teamwork and what amazing value!! Like our first two schools in Mnkhanya Chiefdom Chitenga and Chinjobvu Community Schools, we have also agreed to 'adopt' Madimba

Community School as a High Five Club School and will be working with the community to further uplift it over the next few years, when funds allow, including accommodation provision for 3 of the volunteer teachers and a second 2-classroom block.



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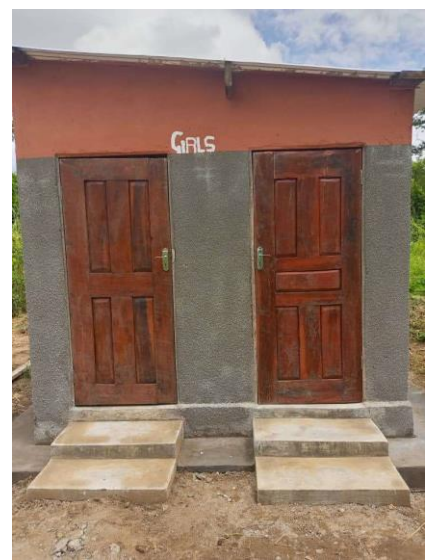
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