

**MAY 2018**

## Lupembelwasenga Solar powered water pump works!



**Balancing tank, guard hut and solar array**

### Introduction

Lupembelwasenga Water project is a combined gravity and solar pumped village supply scheme, with the intake coming from a freshwater spring approximately 5km from the village. Construction of Phase 1 of the water supply system - gravity supply to the village - commenced in December 2016 and was completed in partnership with the village in October 2017. At that stage, 3 water points in the lower part of the village were commissioned. Phase 2 of the project includes a solar pumping station and pumping main to lift water to the higher end of the village, and a distribution system to 19 more water points throughout the village. Partly funded by a grant from Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission, Phase 2 commenced in November 2017.



**Pipe trench for pumping main to Imalinyi**

## Progress to date

Since then, the solar array and pumping station has been constructed, the pumping main has been laid and we are delighted to report that the solar powered pump is now working. It pumps 2.5 litres per second up to the top of the village 4.3km away and some 30 meters higher than the village centre. If we are impressed to think that the water is pumped up without any energy source other than the sun, you can imagine how amazed the villagers are!



**Solar array installed in the pump station compound**



**One of three distribution points completed with flow from the balancing tank**



**Health and hygiene training being delivered to primary school children**



Now that water is available at the top of the village we are building balancing tanks there and the village is busy digging trenches for the remainder of the water distribution system and 19 water points. There is health and hygiene teaching seminars to complete in the village, lessons in school and system management training too. It's great that EI has been able to make such a difference to people's daily life in Lupembelwasenga through this provision of clean water and improved understanding of health and hygiene.



**The solar powered pump being installed in the pump sump**

## God's Timing

The EI Tanzania team in Iringa had planned for the solar supply contractor to start the installation at the end of February. This date fitted with Andy Sharpe's planned arrival a couple of weeks beforehand, allowing Andy time to check that everything was ready for the installation, and also for a short handover with Dave Rollett before he and Tricia returned to UK for the arrival of their new baby. But Andy's elderly father died in February so Andy was not able to get to Iringa until 18<sup>th</sup> March. Meanwhile, the solar supply contractor was also delayed due to problems importing the solar pump from Germany and Dave and Tricia needed to return to UK as planned. The delay gave the Iringa project team more time to prepare for solar installation. Eventually Dave was able to meet with Andy in UK before Andy left for Iringa, and the solar supply contractor finally got the pump cleared from customs so they were able to start on site just a couple of days after Andy had arrived to oversee things. God's timing or what?!

## Using what God has Given Us

*A report on the IMARIKA project in Tanzania. Andrew Wingfield wrote this article for Operation Agri. Andrew and his family returned to the UK in January 2018 after serving in Tanzania as EI Country Representatives for 12 years!*



### Maize with cover crops

When faced with a crowd of 5,000 hungry people, Jesus asked his disciples to feed them. Although it seemed insignificant to them, he expected them to make use of the little that they had (five loaves and two fish). Many people living in the developing world, when faced with problems, assume that they need resources from outside. This mindset is partly the result of unhelpful approaches by aid and development agencies and churches over many decades which have been focused more on giving handouts than encouraging



### VICOBA

communities to use the resources they already have.

Through the 'Imarika' project, Emmanuel International is working with churches in Tanzania to help them to recognise and use the resources that God has already given them to serve the community. Through a series of Bible studies and interactive games, local churches are encouraged to consider their role as church in the community and what resources they already have available to them.

Following the mobilisation training, the churches invite members of the community from outside of the church to join them in an action group. Based on priorities which the group identify themselves, Emmanuel International provides training on conservation agriculture, tree planting, fuel efficient stoves, and VICOBA (village community banks).

Through VICOBA, groups save money together through weekly meetings where members can buy shares. The share fund is then used to provide loans to members which they can use to fund entrepreneurial activities. They pay back the loan with a modest interest rate which increases the share price. After one year all the members get the value of their shares back at the new, higher share price.

The 'Agape' group in Mangawe village surpassed expectations when they saved 2.5 million shillings (over £800) in just six months. This was all from their own resources; no input of capital was given from outside.



**Evelina Mponda**, a member of the group said *"The first loan I received from the group I used to make donuts and to buy eggs which I sold on. Then I got a second loan which I used to continue with my small business while my husband prepared rocks to build our house. We've now finished our house but I also thank God I was able to buy one cow using a loan from the group."*

Through Conservation Agriculture training, the 'Kilimo Elekezi' group

established through the church in Utengule village is learning the importance of caring for a vital resource God has provided them with - the soil.

**Nuhu Muyemba**, a muslim, was attracted to join the group because of the training on agriculture. He said *"Through the IMARIKA project I have learned about conservation agriculture, using cover crops and how to grow trees for timber and fruit. Also through this group, I have learned about building good relationships even for husbands and wives sharing the household income fairly. The project has also taught me to be self sufficient, especially by using conservation agriculture techniques so we can improve the soil as an asset for the future."*



**Sophia Nkwama**, mother of seven said *"Through the group I have learned how to read and understand the Bible, especially to understand that God was the first farmer, so it is very important for us to care for our earth as God has instructed. I have learned to make good use of the resources God has given us, by planting trees, improving how we grow food and working diligently. Now I'm using conservation agriculture methods; in the past I didn't use any of these techniques and I can see how it is improving my life."*

### Dates for your diary

**Board Meeting:** Postponed April meeting to take place on 1 June 2018 in Chichester.