



Project Update: Tanzania School WaSH Programme March 2012

Emmanuel International has been working together with its partner church the Anglican Diocese of Ruaha to address a serious problem faced by many rural schools in the Iringa region – lack of water, inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene. The School WaSH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) programme is addressing these issues by providing clean water at schools through the construction of rainwater harvesting systems, improving school toilets and providing

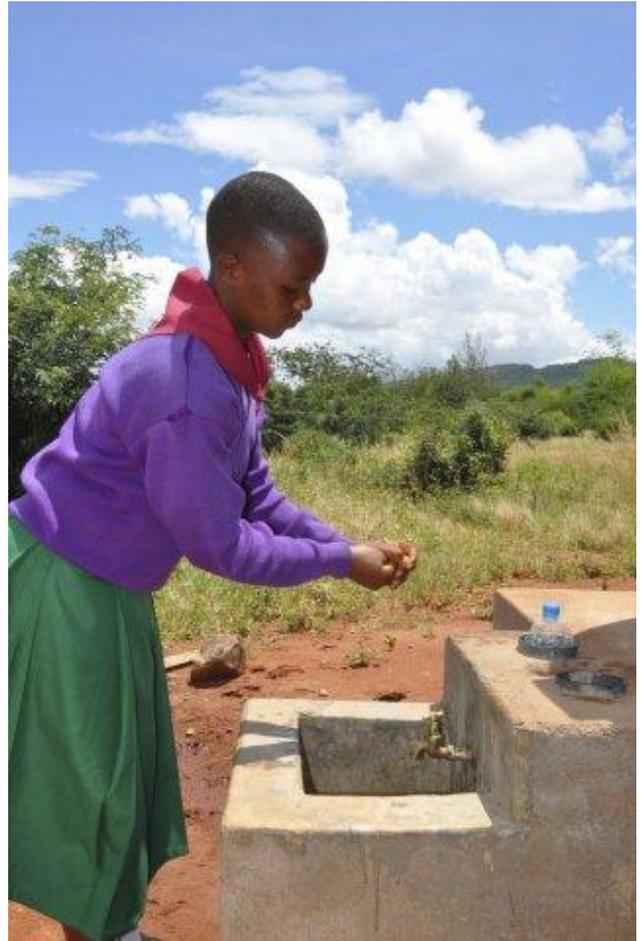


Students can now fetch clean water at Uhambingeto Secondary School

education to students on how to avoid disease, both in the school environment and at home.

Following the successful project at Uhambingeto Primary School, projects have been undertaken at

Uhambingeto Secondary School, Vitono Primary School and currently Ikuka Primary School. These schools are all situated in places where getting clean water is often very difficult. Often students and staff have to carry water over long distances,



A student using the new handwash station and the lack of clean water impairs the students' ability to concentrate in class, causes poor health, and causes many of the teachers posted to these rural schools to leave. Consequently the students miss out on the education they deserve.

However, by harvesting and storing the rainwater that falls on classroom roofs, a reliable supply of very clean water can be provided right where it is



Rainwater tanks at Uhambingeto Secondary School

needed – at the school site. A simple design of reinforced brick tanks are used, which utilise materials available locally and, and local people are trained to do the construction. To date, over 2000 children in four schools have benefitted from the WaSH programme.



Bishop Joseph Mgomi with leader of Kilolo District Council at the opening ceremony

At Uhambingeto Secondary School, seven 20,000L rainwater collection tanks were constructed, along with handwash stations for the toilets. All the students in the school participated in the interactive group work lessons on water conservation, sanitation and hygiene.

As with all the schools in the programme, the school management have been given training in how to budget for using the stored rainwater, especially during the dry season, and a school water committee consisting of students and teachers have been trained in the maintenance of the rainwater harvesting systems and handwash stations to ensure sustainability.



Students perform a rap about clean water

An official opening of the completed facilities was held in June 2011, attended by the Bishop of the Diocese, Joseph Mgomi, leaders of the district government as well as school and community leaders and the whole school. Sincere thanks were expressed to the Diocese of Ruaha and Emmanuel International for their role in bringing the project to fruition.



Students take part in lesson on the dangers of dirty water

Several of the teachers including the headmaster have said that they would not have stayed at the school if the project had not been carried out, and students now get a drink of clean water every day at school making their time at school much more enjoyable.



The number of teachers has increased and the school exam results have improved, and these outcomes are bringing lasting benefit to the community.



Construction of underground tank at Vitono

At Vitono primary school, two above ground 20,000L rainwater tanks and two underground tanks have been constructed. The tanks are now all full and the students and staff are very happy to have clean water on site. Previously they were collecting water by digging into sand river beds and carrying the water over a kilometer to the school. New boys and girls latrine blocks have been constructed to replace the crumbling latrines which were impossible to keep clean and in danger of collapse. Now the students can go to the toilet in a very clean environment with improved privacy, and they can wash their hands with clean water and soap at the new handwash stations.



Using the new handwash station



Enjoying clean fresh water at the school

Work is already underway at the primary school in the more distant village of Ikuka where five 20,000L tanks are being constructed in addition to a new separated toilet block for boys and girls.



New girls toilet block at Vitono



School water committee in front of the new tanks

To illustrate how bad the water situation was previously, when the construction team started



Learning about hygiene

building the tanks, the water they used for building had to be brought in by barrels towed by tractors or donkeys from another village 20km away. But now the new tanks have started collecting clean water, which is available right where it is needed, at the school site.

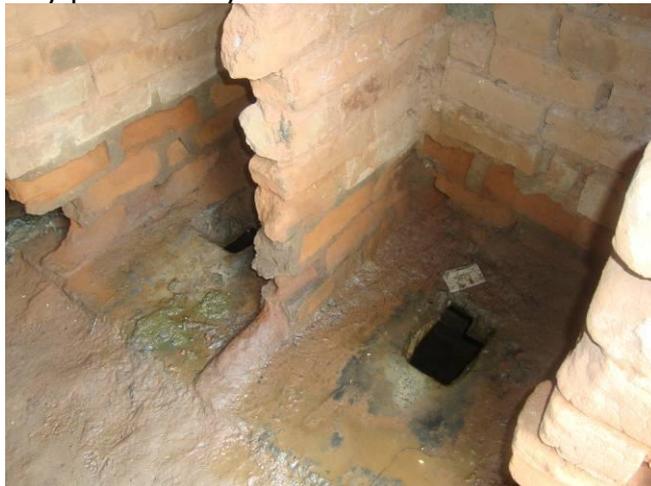


New tank at Ikuka Primary School

The whole community has been working together with the school on the project and community members have volunteered their time for digging foundations, excavating the large pit for the new latrines and carrying bricks and sand which are



sourced locally. Emmanuel International aims to assist local churches to meet the needs of the poor physically as well as spiritually and projects like this are a great way for the church to demonstrate God's love to the community in a very practical way.



Existing students' latrines at Ikuka



Casting of concrete slab for new latrines

Plans are now underway for the next School WaSH project at Furahia Secondary School. This school is also in a very dry area where the only available source of water is holes dug in the beds of sand rivers. Emmanuel International aims to raise approx £25,000 to construct a rainwater harvesting system and provide improved hygiene and sanitation to the 500 students at this rural school. With your help, we can bring about a lasting impact to the school and the community. Donations marked 'Tanzania School WaSH' can be sent to EIUK at the address below.

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