

Simbunji Community School in Zambia



Pupils and Staff Latrines

School Background

Simbunji Community School lies 40 km from Kalomo town in the western part of Kalomo District. It was founded by the community in 2005 because of the distances to other schools. The school currently has 80 pupils enrolled from grade 1-4. There is one teacher.

The community's main source of income is subsistence farming. The families grow maize and keep goats, cattle, sheep and chicken.

In 2017 the school had two classrooms in a partially completed classroom block, four latrines, two incomplete teacher staff houses, and a (dry) borehole. Most of it is self-built and is not in good condition. The school has great potential for enrolment to increase as there are no other schools close-by and a lot of families live in the surrounding area. We feel it is important to support the community with improved facilities with the aim of government sending paid, trained teachers.



Simbunji School

Project

With a donation from ATD Foundation, African Revival commenced an upgrade the school's infrastructure. We started with sanitary facilities as the existing latrines were poor quality and there were no facilities for teachers. The project required a substantial input from the community (digging the pits 3 meters deep, as well as providing; sand, stones, bricks) and relatively little for building material and construction labor (compared to a classroom block for example) so we felt it was a good project to carry out with a new community.

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There were no designated latrines for staff use at Simbunji Community School. Construction of two stance latrines for teachers gives both pupils and staff a sense of privacy. Providing a good educational environment helps this school secure committed good teaching staff. The attraction and retention of staff is incredibly important in rural schools.

The construction commenced in November 2018 with a block of four latrines for boys with a urinal, a block of four latrines for girls with a washroom, permanent handwashing facilities, and two latrines for staff - completed in March 2019.

There was some delay because of the rocky terrain. It took the community quite a while to dig the 3-meter deep pits for the boys' and girls' latrines. They then took a break and only started digging the staff latrines pits in December 2018.

Impact

The pupils that attend Simbunji Community School, along with their teacher, families and the local community, are the direct beneficiaries of this project – increasing year on year as enrolment increases and more children pass through the school.

Statistics collected by the District Education Board, at schools that ARZ has previously worked with, point to menstruation as a causal factor of girls' absenteeism and high dropout rates. The construction of changing rooms gives the girls private hygienic facilities to wash and change.

As part of our Girls and Sanitation programme, we organised a sanitation workshop for the pupils in November 2018. They learned about hand washing, toilet use, and toilet cleaning. With girls older than 12 (10 of them) we did a session on menstrual health and provided them with washable pads.



African Revival's Hygiene Officer, Miyoba, during a sanitation workshop

Outcomes

The educational outcome of this project is improved academic environment, affecting thousands of children in the coming years.

Improved education has been shown to have a causal and direct impact on numerous social markers such as sanitation, health and mortality, nutrition, civic participation, and rural poverty. Over time improved education in the Kalomo District will create notable returns both financially and with regard to health. These returns will contribute towards rural development, eventually lifting many children and families out of poverty.

Financial summary

This project was implemented at a total cost of £7,654: £1,182 under estimated budget. A detailed breakdown of costs versus budget has also been provided.

Project/Progress in Pictures



ATD visit & Community preparing bricks (June 2018)



*Community starting on digging the pits (July 2018)
& Hitting rock (September 2018)*



Builder putting in foundations for boys' and girls' latrines & ATD visit (November 2018)





Progress boys' and girls' latrines (November – December 2018)



Boys' and girls' and hand washing stand completed and inspection (January 2019)



Progress pit Staff latrines (January 2019) & completion staff latrines (March 2019)

For more information about this project and further projects that require funding, please contact inge.akerboom@africanrevival.org in Zambia or catherine.inch@africanrevival.org in the UK office.