

The Landirani Trust

Supporting orphans in Malawi

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Morden Baptist Church – Water Project Interim Report July 2012

Background

In 2011 worshippers and others associated with Morden Baptist Church (MBC) South London raised £5000 towards the cost of water and sanitation-related projects for The Landirani Trust.

The original purpose had been to provide funds to buy materials, goods and labour to cover shallow wells. However the Malawian-based team discussed this in the Spring of 2011 (UK Autumn) and considered the funds would have more impact, be better used and be put to better use if they could be used to fund repairs to broken or non-working boreholes instead.

Conditions would be attached as follows:

- Landirani would only repair any borehole once, to encourage community ownership/responsibility
- There would be a spread of boreholes so that different communities and centres would benefit
- The community has to provide a written estimate of all parts needed, quantities, and where possible, costs to be checked and verified by a Landirani officer
- Labour would be provided locally and free, with Landirani officers assisting if necessary
- Any community applying for Landirani/MBC to repair their borehole has to first provide evidence of funds of their own to be used towards the cost of any future repair. No community funds = no Landirani/MBC assistance

Our chairperson, Heather Palmer, consulted with colleagues at MBC who agreed the funds could be used in this way.

We gathered quotes ready to buy parts once the rains stopped. A shortage of fuel also meant there were delays in getting parts and arranging repairs. We know this must be disappointing for donors/supporters but we hope you can understand that sometimes, out here in Malawi, things take time...!

Boreholes repaired and assistance given

So far MBC funds have been used as follows:

- 10,000MK Kakoma School (a self- repair to which we contributed funds for future repairs)
- 35,000MK to repair Mndinda Village borehole
- 10,000MK Msaonelana Village (Lombwa) a self-repair where funds were contributed towards the cost of future repairs
- 83,000MK on Malawi I village (Mbangombe Centre) and Chitsime school
- 23,000MK on parts and welding on Mteza Landirani Trust Village site – this is a tricky borehole which we have had to repair 3 times now each time a different reasons – the most recent being a snapped handle, which needed welding.

Funds were also donated to a long-standing and increasingly complex repair and reinstallation of a borehole at N'goni clinic. Unfortunately having thought this repair was concluded, we have now discovered further work is needed. We are trying to fund alternative sources of funds, preferably from within Malawi, to conclude this repair and get the clinic a much-needed water source

At Kakoma and Msaonelana long-standing broken boreholes were repaired by the communities themselves, as we started the repair programme. Each raised considerable funds (over 30,000MK/£120 at the time) to fund their repairs. Given this, Landirani contributed 10,000MK (£40) to each community toward the cost of future repairs. This was done to commend and recognise the work each community had done; and to act as an incentive to keep funds available for future repairs. This was in keeping with the principles of the programme.



Kakoma School Borehole now in use

We sent them a letter of congratulations on funding and arranging their own repairs. We also made sure that each bought locks to ensure parts do not get stolen – a common problem, sadly.

Parts have also been provided for two other villages that have also done a good job in raising funds for future repairs; and in arranging their own repairs – these were at Mndinda and Chitsime villages – the latter being near the school so integral to the village and school

Before and After at Mndinda Village



Chitsime borehole now in use



In all 3 villages the boreholes are still working well and providing good quality, clean, safe water for dozens of families in the surrounding communities.

Borehole repairs have also been undertaken, funded by MBC and arranged by Landirani at Malawi I villages, in M'bang'ombe Centre. Just at the moment we don't have photos from Malawi Villages (camera battery needed!) but be assured the borehole is up and working

We managed to get the quotations, buy the parts and repair the boreholes for Chitsime and Malawi I village within a month – lightning speed by Malawian standards and we think pretty good by any others!

Finally, under the current phase of repairs, the broken borehole has been repaired at Mteza, the site of the planned Landirani Training Village and under-construction rammed earth Community Based Childcare Centre (CBCC). This was a critical repair

as a lack of water at the site was hampering the building work, making living and working conditions difficult for our team there; and making growing things very challenging. After a 'false start' with the first repair (the PVC seals fractured from the cold (yes, it does get cold in Africa!) we replaced them with thicker ones and now the borehole works fine – if a little stiffly due to lack of use.

Sadly the stiffness contributed to the snapping of the handle this week, which we had weld and so the borehole is now back working again. This is critical to the building of a new Community Based Childcare Centre (CBCC) on the site: no water = no construction

Water-carriers at Mteza CBCC build using the borehole



In addition to this repair, we have contributed on your behalf a small sum of money to the custodians of the nearby borehole that we – and indeed the entire community and two other construction projects – were using until the Mteza one was repaired. This led to a much overused borehole and a lot of congestion. So as gesture of goodwill for everyone's cooperation we donated the equivalent of £20 towards the cost of any future repair. Sometimes a little cash and goodwill goes a long way – we never know when we may need another favour....

We will continue with our programme but hope in the meantime, you can already see that your hard work and fund-raising has assisted 6 communities already – and we have many more that will benefit from your generosity and support.

We look forward to sending our next report in a few months' time, with more positive news about the impact your donation is having.

**Landirani Trust
Malawi Team**

July 2012