

Saving valuable time

Chimwemwe Moyo benefits from access to clean, potable water from a borehole drilled close to the **Salima Solar** plant in Malawi.

Before JCM Power drilled the Sadzu Phuzi borehole near their home, Chimwemwe and her twelve-year-old twins collected water three times a day, "I had to walk four hundred metres through bushes to get drinking water. Livestock used to drink water from the same stream, and we sometimes found that the water was dirty and would have to wait for some time for it to be clear. That's the only water source we had; it had a bad smell, but we had no other option."

She continued, "We had to fight with other people for access to the water resource, often coming home without water if the place was congested...I sometimes had to wake up at 2am just to get the water from the stream!"

Co-developers of the 60MWac Salima Solar project, PIDG company InfraCo Africa and JCM Power recognised the challenges faced by the local community in accessing clean water. The companies secured grant funding from PIDG Technical Assistance to support the drilling of ten boreholes in the Salima area, serving 698 Households (3,439 people).

Chimwemwe says "Before the borehole was drilled, my children often went to school late because they were carrying water, now they go to school early because the water source is very close to the community."

With access to sufficient water, Chimwemwe grows her own vegetables, enabling her to save money. The time she saves each day is spent with her family or on fetching firewood for her own use and to sell to others. Chimwemwe is happy to pay the monthly fee for maintenance of the borehole as the water is clean. She concludes, "No longer going far to fetch water brings me inner peace."

